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MAY 22, 2022

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Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

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Four persons held a day after youth killed by wife's family members
page 7

10 bodies retrieved from the debris of tunnel in J&K's Ramban
page 8

Biden signs $40 bn aid Bill for Ukraine's war efforts: White House
page 11

Bumrah, David help MI knock out DC; RCB qualifies
page 16

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NEARBY

Rain puts the brakes on rejuvenation of lakes

BENGALURU

The rainfall in the last few weeks, which wreaked havoc in many parts of the city, has also put the brakes on the rejuvenation of Bellandur and Varthur lakes among others.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Lesson on Bhagat Singh is back in textbook

BENGALURU

Following outrage and protests over exclusion of a lesson on Bhagat Singh by senior scholar G. Ramakrishna from Class X First Language Kannada textbook, the Government has now re-introduced it.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 5

CM, Cong. leaders return without meeting bigwigs

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai as well as Congress leaders D.K. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, who had gone to Delhi to speak to top leaders of their parties in the hope of discussing Legislative Council and Rajya Sabha tickets, returned without meeting them.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

CLASSIFIEDS ▸ PAGES J2 & 2
MAGAZINE ▸ 8 PAGES

Centre slashes fuel taxes, sets ₹200 subsidy on LPG cylinders

Central excise duty on petrol cut by ₹8 a litre, diesel by ₹6: Finance Minister

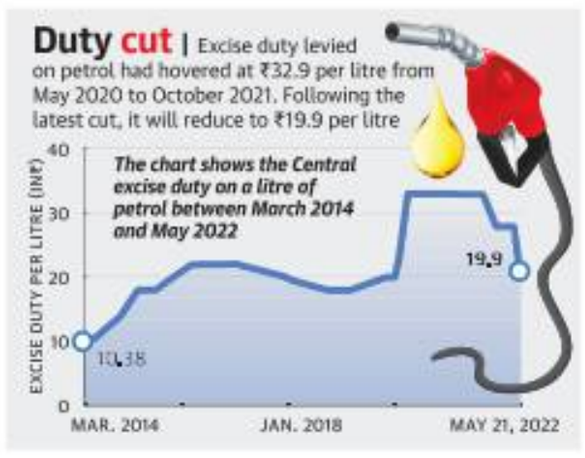
VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a slew of measures to rein in runaway inflation on Saturday evening, including duty cuts on petroleum products, a ₹200 subsidy on LPG cylinders for the poor and a rejig of import duties on plastic and steel products.

A reduction in central excise duty per litre of petrol by ₹8, and of diesel by ₹6, will translate into retail prices on these fuels dropping by ₹9.5 per litre and ₹7 per litre, Ms. Sitharaman said.

The steps to check rising prices assume significance with retail inflation spiralling to 7.8% in April, the highest since the NDA government assumed office in 2014, and wholesale inflation hitting a multi-decade high of 15.1%. Economists expect the measures to help cool off inflation in May to somewhere between 6.5% to 7% and supplement the central bank's interest rate hikes to tame prices.

Reiterating the Prime Minister's recent plea to non-NDA ruled States to cut State-level duties on fuel products, Ms. Sitharaman exhorted all States, 'especially those that had not cut


Duty cut | Excise duty levied on petrol had hovered at ₹32.9 per litre from May 2020 to October 2021. Following the latest cut, it will reduce to ₹19.9 per litre
The chart shows the Central excise duty on a litre of petrol between March 2014 and May 2022
EXCISE DUTY PER LITRE (INR)
40
30
20
10
0
10.38
19.9
MAR. 2014
JAN. 2018
MAY 21, 2022

State levies when central taxes on fuel products were cut the last time, to implement a similar cut and give relief to the common man'.

The latest round of fuel tax cuts, following the ₹5 and ₹10 per litre for petrol and diesel, respectively, in November 2021, will cost the government about ₹1 lakh crore a year in terms of foregone revenue.

'Always people first'

Ms. Sitharaman invoked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to help the poor and common man and said the number of steps taken to help these sections had ensured that the average inflation had remained lower than during previous governments.

"It is always people first for us!" Prime Minister Modi said in a tweet about the measures. "Today's decisions... will positively impact various sectors, provide relief to our citizens and further 'Ease of Living," he said.

Responding to the Prime Minister's call to the States to cut taxes for fuel products, the Kerala government on Saturday announced a reduction in the State's tax on petrol and diesel by ₹2.41 and ₹1.36 per litre respectively, in the wake of the excise duty cut by the Centre.

A subsidy of ₹200 per gas cylinder for up to 12 cylinders a year will be granted to over nine crore beneficiaries of the PM Ujwala Yojana. "This will help our mothers and sisters and have a revenue implication of around ₹6,100 crore a year," she said.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that the LPG subsidy relief is "in addition to the fact that despite a 43% rise in Saudi CP (our LPG import benchmark) in the past 7 months, our LPG prices had gone up by just 11%".

"The welcome reduction in excise duty will help to cool the inflation trajectory going ahead," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Fuel retailers fret over curbs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Fuel pump dealers have written to state-owned oil companies voicing their concerns about the pressure they are facing to restrict diesel sales, especially to bulk and new consumers.

FULL REPORT ▸ PAGE 10

Govt. wants to keep look-out circular details under wraps

Several international travellers intercepted at airports

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Wary of embarrassment he might face if stopped at the airport by immigration officials, a politician from Jammu and Kashmir has written to the authorities seeking to know if his name is on the "no-fly" list that bars him from travelling abroad.

Worried over his ailing sister in the U.K., the politician, who does not want to be identified, wanted to check all safety boxes before he takes the journey to Delhi to board the onward international flight.

"I do not want to be made into a spectacle at the Delhi airport, where the immigration authorities stop me and take me aside for questioning. It will be an embarrassment for the family," he said.

In April, Aakar Patel, chair of the human rights organisation Amnesty International India, was stopped at the Bengaluru airport on the basis of a look-out circular (LOC) generated by the CBI. He said, "You don't realise there is an LOC against you until forced away from the airport."

The opaque system under which LOCs are issued is such that a person will not be able to know if such a circular exists against him or her till he/she reaches the airport.

Obstacle course | Several persons have approached courts after they were caught unawares at airports while trying to fly abroad due to the Look Out Circulars issued against them
Who can generate LOCs?
Authorised officers, including an officer not below the rank of deputy secretary, district magistrates, superintendents of police and heads of Public Sector banks
LOOK OUT
LEGAL TANGLE
January 12: Delhi High Court quashes the LOC issued by the Income Tax Department against a businessman
April 5: Punjab and Haryana High Court quashes the LOC against Noor Paul
April 16: A Delhi court asks CBI to withdraw LOC against Aakar Patel, chair, Amnesty International India
May 5: Centre moves Supreme Court against the paragraph of the Punjab HC judgment that sought changes to the MHA guidelines

SPECIAL

A string of court orders recently have put the spotlight on the opaque and mechanical way in which the LOCs are generated, but the Union Home Ministry is in no mood to relent.

Under the existing guidelines, LOCs are initiated by a large number of agencies which includes the CBI, Enforcement Directorate, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Income Tax Department, State police forces and intelligence agencies. It should be done by an officer not below the rank of a district magistrate or superintendent of police.

In 2018, after liquor baron Vijay Mallya fled to the U.K., the Home Ministry brought changes to the guidelines authorising chairman, managing director and chief executives of all public sector banks to generate LOCs.

The organisations have to provide details such as the First Information Report (FIR) number.

Court case number is to be mandatorily provided apart from the name, passport number and other details.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Call for help: Villagers waiting for evacuation in the flood-affected Hojai district of Assam on Saturday. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

Floods claim 25 lives in northeast

Toll rises to nine in Assam where 7.12 lakh people were hit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Floods and landslips have claimed 25 lives across three north-eastern States so far, with Assam being the worst hit.

According to data provided by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) late on Friday, four persons, including two children have drowned. The death toll in the disaster has now gone up to nine. Five others had died in a series of landslips since May 14.

On Friday, the body of a woman was retrieved from a landslip zone in Arunachal Pradesh's capital, Itanagar. She was the eighth victim of several cases of landslips reported across the town, prompting Chief Minister Pema Khandu to ask people to shift from vulnerable areas. Three others had died in flash floods and landslips in Meghalaya earlier.

"About 7.12 lakh people have been affected across 29 flood-affected districts, with central Assam's Nagaon being the worst hit. So far, 74,705 people have been shifted to 234 relief camps," an ASDMA spokesperson said.

A report received by the ASDMA from the Water Resources Department's Dibrugarh-based assistant executive engineer said "rain cuts and a major slump down" have been observed at a dyke downstream of the Bogibeel rail-road bridge across the Brahmaputra.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Eight, including three children, killed in accident near Dharwad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Eight persons, including three children, were killed and 12 others were injured in an accident near Dharwad early on Saturday.

As per the initial report by Superintendent of Police P. Krishnakant, seven persons died and six were injured.

However, police later learnt that 20 persons, including children, were travelling in the multi-utility vehicle (MUV), which met with an accident near Baada village. One of the injured persons succumbed to injuries, taking the tally to eight.

All those in the MUV were from Benakanakatti village. They were returning from a family function at Mansur village on May 20 night.

The driver of the MUV reportedly lost control of the vehicle and hit a roadside tree. The vehicle overturned, killing four persons on the spot.

The driver sustained severe injuries.

According to the survivors, the driver was making his third trip to drop off guests to their villages from Mansur mutt where the function had been organised.

The victims are Ananya, 14, Harish, 13, Shilpa, 34, Nilavva, 40, Madhushree, 20, Maheshwar, 11, Shambhulingaiah, 35, and Chennavva Bankapur, 45.

Woman falls from window of shopping complex, dies

She lost balance while walking down

The crowd that gathered outside the building where the accident took place in Bengaluru on Saturday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 20-year-woman was killed and her male friend severely injured when they accidentally fell from the window adjacent to the stairs on the second floor of a multi-storey shopping complex on Brigade Road on Saturday afternoon.

The deceased, identified as Liya, a resident of Fraser Town, studying B.Com. in a private college, and her friend – identified as Chris Peter, a native of Andhra Pradesh – had gone to the food court of the shopping complex.

No grills

According to the police, the incident occurred around 1.20 p.m. When they were walking on the stairs, she lost balance and fell through the window. The window didn't have grills, so the window fibre sheet broke and both slipped through the window and crashed on to the ground, the police said.

Liya was rushed to a nearby hospital, but the doctors declared her brought dead. Peter was admitted to the ICU of a private hospital as he sustained multiple injuries.

The police suspect that Peter tried to rescue Liya when she slipped from the stairs, but he too lost balance and fell.

The Cubbon Park police have taken up a case and are awaiting Peter' recovery to question him.

Labour Party wins Australia polls

Anthony Albanese set to become new Prime Minister

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CANBERRA

Australia's centre-left Opposition party toppled the conservative government after almost a decade in power, and Prime Minister-elect Anthony Albanese in his Saturday election victory speech promised sharper reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while he faces an early foreign policy test.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he quickly conceded defeat despite millions of votes yet to be counted because an Australian leader must attend a Tokyo summit on Tuesday with U.S. President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Anthony Albanese

Mr. Albanese, who has described himself as the only candidate with a "non-Anglo Celtic name" to run for Prime Minister in the 121 years that the office has existed, referred to his own humble upbringing in the Sydney suburb of Camperdown. "It says a lot about our great country that a son of a single mom who was a disability pensioner, who grew up in public housing down the road in Camperdown can stand before you tonight as Australia's Prime Minister," Mr. Albanese said in his speech. Mr. Albanese will be sworn in as Prime Minister after his Labour party clinched its first electoral win since 2007.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

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Laid low: Fishermen entering the sea at Veraval, the hub of fishing encompassing even the far-off Sir Creek area in Gujarat. The pandemic and the high diesel prices have affected their lives.

Sir Creek's fish basket

But the fishermen are finding it difficult to make ends meet

VIJAY SONEJI

Pomfret, lobster, croaker fish... Sir Creek's bounty of seafood is known for its quality and quantity. As much of this coastline lies near the International Border in Kutch district, the BSF mans the area spread over 4,050 sq.km.

"We have exhausted our savings during the last three years as fishing came to naught during the pandemic. The steady and steep diesel price hike has not made things any better, Shailesh Kuhada, a fisherman from Veraval, says. "We started our season in early September 2021 and were hoping it would last till the end of May 2022, but this time, we wound up almost a month in advance. The steep diesel prices have come on the back of the revoking of the diesel subsidy that we used to get, in December 2021. Fishermen are finding it difficult to survive and many have now taken loans to make ends meet."

The area has six major creeks and several small ones. The Indian Coast Guard too is active here, assisting fishermen in distress at sea and undertaking anti-smuggling operations.

Prize catch: The rare and expensive *ghol* fish caught from the Kori creek on the India-Pakistan International Border.

Back from the sea: Fishermen unloading fresh stock at the Veraval harbour.

Snapped up: A snapper caught at the Jakhau port near Sir Creek.

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SC, AGE 32, Fair, MBBS, MD, Doctor, Chennai. Seeks: Doctor, B.E in MNC or Any Govt. 9443682088, 7397438397

RC CHRISTIAN Nadar, 31/168cm, Doctor, M.D (Gen.Med) persuing D.M. (Clinical Immunology & Rhsumatology) seeks P.G Doctor / any super Specialty Doctor/ IAS/ Group I services Groom. Ct : 9331193790

ENGLISH

INTER– FAITH couple looking for a suitably qualified and well settled Catholic groom for daughter 29 yrs, MBA, manager at a global e-commerce company based at Chennai, 20L PA. Contact 9445027217

FINANCE / BANKING

38/ F, Hindu, SC, Bank Officer, divorcee, expects value oriented person. Suitable partner preferred. – contact no: 9962230051

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

KERALITE HINDU girl, Asst. Commissioner, IRS. DOB:- 20.10.1990, 155 cm. Seeks groom preferably Civil Servants/ Doctors/ Similar Group A officers. Contact : 9495033834.

MALAYALAM

MENON GIRL 27/151cms doing Mds Orthodontics in Chennai requires DOCTORS only.Kindly contact 9566074556.

HINDU NAIR 30/160 Shuddha Star Chothi, educated in UAE, BA (Hons) . Working for MNC Bank, Bangalore. Seeks well educated groom with clean habits, CT: 9597386489

PROPOSALS FROM boys with matching profile for Nair girl, born October 1983, 158cms fair athletic M.Sc SWE, senior systems analyst on deputation to Toronto, expected back before the end of the year. Contact 9446022706 or nairjk54@gmail.com

NAIR GIRL,26 doing MD, General Medicine, PG doctors interested.9847334042

TAMIL

CATHOLIC VELLALAR Girl 29/171 MBBS Pursuing PG Chicago, USA seeks professional from USA. Ct: 9150153743

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliances, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

CHRISTIAN, ADVOCATE (SOEL), Age 26, SC, Chennai, Pursuing LLM, Parent seeks God fearing Groom. 9790977186

TAMIL MUSLIM ,25/162 cm MBBS – philippines, V.Fair, good looking seeks well educated and settled groom from respectable family. Ct – 9841327309

MUSLIM GIRL 33/173 Sr. SWE in UK on work visa, Seeks IT Professionals groom age below 37 and above 173cm willing to relocate. Cont: 9003765355

CHRISTIAN BRIDE, 23yrs, Studying MS in USA, seeks End Time Message Christian Ct: saramn_777@yahoo.com

Tamil speaking Muslim girl 26yrs, 163Cm, Fair, Slim from a well Educated rich family in Chennai seeks suitable Groom. Whats app 9150853276

TAMIL

TAMIL SUNNYMUSLIM Girl 26 Years MBBS Chennai seeks Unmarried Muslim MBBS (IndianUniv) Boy Call 9500180768

CHRISTIAN 32 years BE Non-IT Working in MNC at Chennai Seeks BE Non-IT Working Groom from a literate Decent Christian Family Contact: 94443 25317.

TAMIL CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Virtuous, very fair from decent family BE 24yrs 170cms MNC employed. Contact: arunasalasamyantony@yahoo.com

VERY RICH educated Christian family invites marriage Proposal for their daughter Post–graduate, fair, beautiful, God fearing from a rich Christian family. Bridegroom should be well educated and age upto 34 send bio–data to 9840620608.

SAIVA VELLALAR Divorced Girl 32/ 155 Anusham MS/USA working Dallas no Child preferably US & Vegetarian only. CT: 94437-59752.

THULUVA VELLALA Mudaliar Girl 31/ 160cm, P.G. Employed in IT Chennai, Krithigai Seeks Groom Ct: 9445505491

TAMIL Yadhava 25/165,Pooradam girl MS Abroad seeks well Edu groom preferably from Europe. Ct: 95000 33921.

27, FAIR, B.Tech, M. S. in US, working in Chennai, Affluent and reputed family, seeks settled, groom CNB. 9489935653

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR SC 37/1984 MA, Pvt Bank,Ashwini, Good looking. Seek Chennai Groom,Caste nobar 9500017884

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIYA BUSINESS family looking alliance for their daughter B.Tech, MBA age 27 Sr. Business Analyst from well educated, business family same community or from Hindu community. Contact 9840447199

34 B.COM MBA Rsghu in Lagnam Divorcee seeks suitable groom 9094020665

BRAHMIN IYER 28/173 Uthiram LLB Suddha Jadagam Ch seeks well educated Brahmin Groom Ct:Geetham 9884858014

TAMIL, SC AD / Hindu, 29/155, Rohini, Wheatish, upper middle class, M TECH (CSE), B'lore, Project Fellow Own house, Well educated family. WhatsApp: 9620432082

MUDALIAR/ PILLAI Non Veg (Bengaluru), 36/165, Bsc, MBBS, MD. Working as a Senior Resident in Emergency Medicine Multispeciality Hospital @ Mysore seeks MBA(IIM) M.E.M.Tech.MS Preferred, Central Govt Employed or Own Industry or Well Positioned in JOB. Fair and Tall Good Family Background.Ct: 9449037763 / 9600534404

HINDU PILLAI, Asst. Prof, M.E, 30/ 155 Uthiram seeks Er/Dr Groom. Contact: 99523 62830/74182 11136.

ELITE FAMILY, Hindu 30, SC, AD, BE MBA Homely & Divorced, Seeking Groom from Similar background Employed & below 35 yrs. 7303518877

KARKATHA PILLAI, 24/162. BDS, Good looking Bride seeks Groom with MDS qualification from Pillai Mudaliar community. Sub caste no bar. Please Contact: 76969 54933

B.TECH IIT CS Dual, Girl 24/178cm Pillai, MNC BLR premium salary, seeks compatible groom Veg community/India based 9940019603

PILLAI/ MUDALIAR: 32 / Good Looking, MBBS, MD Final Yr, Well Settled Family, Seeks Groom aged 32–35, Engineer/ Business /Doctor – 9345655735

MUDALIAR (CASTE no bar), 42/155, PhD (Pharma), employed in MNC seeks qualified employed groom, India/Abroad, Contact: 9444675720, 9282129789, rajasekaranguru@gmail.com

HINDU, VELLALAR, Pillai,34/167cms, Mrugaserisham, BE,MS,US. Seeks bridegroom from US, Pillai / other subsect. Ct: 98424 53050 / 96774 11643

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR,ELITE Family Sep91/165,PG,Working HR MNC Seeks MS/ M.Tech Groom. 9952997553 / 9176780777

GIRL 34 yrs,Fair, Mithunam, B.Com, MBA,Grammani ,working, Seeks suitable groom. Contact: 9445287838

SAIVA PILLAI 30 Thiruvathirai 165 BTech MBA MNC seeks from Well Settled Groom. 044 48041602 / 9643003640

HASTHAM 34/154 fair MCA Upper mid Clas Seeks Mudaliar / pillai professionaly Qualified Groom 8220757159

GROOM REQ– Fair and slim girl Agamudiyar/1993/kathai/ vrichagham/ MBA/ Working, Caste no bar. Contact–7358747790

MUDALIAR (CNB) 24/165, BE, MS (UK) , MNC, Data Analyst, London, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Any Abroad / Business – 8925019776

✔ **SAIVA VELLALA** Pillai (Veg) 41/ 162 BE Divorcee Seeks Any Degree Well Employed Groom below 45. Send BH (P) to Watsapp: 9342602187 / muthuvel4354@gmail.com

TAMIL

ASST. PROF. Tuluva Vellal Mudaliar Good looking Girl 34 Uthirattathy, Meenam, Ph.D(Physics), Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 34–36 Yrs, Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 7 PM; 7550245659

PILLAI DOCTOR Girl–MS(OG),,Fair, Slim,5ft 6inch, 27 yrs, Convent Educated, Doctor Family–Wants Bridegroom with any Equivalent Community/ Education 9843088263

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HINDU EZHAVA 34, MCA, Asst Manager in Govt bank, seeking a well qualified Groom under 36 yrs from South TamilNadu. Caste no bar, Contact : 9489944130

HINDU AD 29 MCA Seeks Educated Employed Groom 8610410686

HINDU NADAR Girl 28 yrs 167 cm, wheatish, 64 kg, M.E Assistant Professor in Engg college, Upper middle class. Seeks equally qualified boy in job / business. Ct: 96265 15511

HINDU SC PR Kongu 1984 MBBS DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital seeks suitable groom.Ct:94436-60973.

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TAMIL VISWAKARMA 39/150 fair Thiruvonam/ Rich / ME seeks suitable Same Caste Groom. 9486320982

PILLAI 23/158 BE Singapore uthradam seeks well qualified Singapore Citizen or PR only Geetham 9884858014

HINDU NADAR Chennai Age 26, B.E, MBA, IT Professionals, Star Bharani, Seeks Suitable Groom. 94440 48427

MBBS, MD (Govt) Age.26, Good Looking, Well Settled, Only one Daughter, Need: Dr,BE, Any PG. Ct 6374767370

HINDU AD/PR 36/160 Widow, no child. ME, Lecturer at Trichy seeks edu groom, CNB Age upto 44 Ct:7406401199

✔ **BEAUTIFUL, SLIM, Fair, Tall Iyengar Girl, BE + MBA (IIM), Running her own company, 38yrs. any Brahmin boy, (even if younger age) from elite family only (preferably running family business or a successful business background). She's a student of Bharathanatyam, Mohiniyattam and Kalaripayattu. Interests in arts, music, travel, nature & trekking. Fitness and health conscious. Contact : WhatsApp message at 9342075206 / 9342325727 (no calls please due to the heavy number of incoming calls) or Email: priyanka.ges@gmail.com**

ASTASHASRAM, IYER, Revathi, Oct 1972. B.Sc., Seeks well educated / settled 1st Marriage Iyer Groom only. BHP: sree.lashmi108@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED

MUDHALIAR 29 /164 cms / M.B.B.S / Rs. 40000/-pm, Kanni-Uthiram (2), Father Doctor / seeks groom preferably Doctor / Engineer/Gazetted Officer /Charted Accountant from Mudhaliar Community.

Contact No:

97890 73407

USA GROOM WANTED

USA, INTEL EMPLOYED, Vanniyakula Kshatriya, Fair 26/ Arusham, MS from Texas, BE, ECE from CEG, AU. Father Industrialist, Chennai. Looking for USA working Groom for their only daughter.

Mail: mahaa.deral@gmail.com

Whatsapp: 98840 71390

BRIDEGROOM WANTED

We, a well settled affluent business family living in Coimbatore , CSI Christian Nadar, Fair, Age: 23, M.E. Structural Engg. looking for an amiable match from the same community.

WhatsApp No:

+91 73736 22222

Email:

merogedeva@yahoo.com

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA, Kotai-2 Viruchikam, 27/160cm, MBBS Govt Dr. 80k pm seek prof. groom 9884244151

BRIDES WANTED

BENGALI

FAIR BENGALI Kayastha 30/6'1" M.SC.(Tech) 6L pa working PGT Physics DPS Hyderabad.Cast no Bar Own house in Hyderabad & Calcutta. Working Professional Preferable. CT: 9949520577, 9885600972

BENGALI BOY 33 yrs. Advertising professional. Bangalore. Well–spoken, progressive, liberal. Wants to move abroad , Wanted suitable girl. Preferably in Bangalore. With similar outlook. Father: 94334 98696

COSMOPOLITAN

A Post Graduate Bride from an Educated Family for a Hindu Professional Working for MNC in India. 182cm / 32 yrs. Parents Doctors and Economically sound. Mother Tamil, Father Telugu. Caste no bar Contact: 9840052525.

NEVER MARRIED Brahmin Doctor Cardiologist 30 yrs 5ft 4inch Hyderabad seeks unmarried Brahmin bride 39–45 yrs 7013810359.

DIVORCEE

DIVORCEE,MUSLIM,Khan,38,Professor Own House. No Father,Mother, Children Wanted Suitable Bride. Cell: 9342585072

PROPOSALS INVITED from Parents of bridegroom, 36 yrs, Tall, MD, Ph.D (USA) in Health Policy, Working in USA Divorced due to cultural incompatibility. No issue, from Balija/ Gavara Naidu Graduate brides, of decent, cultured family. Ct: 9790596780

DOCTOR

HINDU NADAR, 36/5.11, Doctor, M.S. (Opthal), Consultant in USA, Divorced within very short period (Null & Void) seeks Doctor Bride with good looking/ Family background. Ct: 99524 07380.

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai, Father Doctor, Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96280 12248

HINDU 32 /5ft 9inch MBA(Australia) boy from Dehradun Asst prof in Rajagiri Business School kerla, seek Research scholar, PHD, lecturer Cast no bar 9415358896

MALAYALAM

CHRISTIAN PARENTS invite suitable proposals for son living in London, B.E., M.B.A. (U.K.), aged 45, working for a global firm, and also governing successful and growing family businesses in the U.K. and India with initiatives to expand to other countries. Please contact mother at selina@vineyardhills.in.

EZHAVA GROOM Age 28yrs., Star–Aayilyam, UK Citizen BE / MBA Working, Seeks equally Educated & Working girl settled in UK only CNB only Hindus Contact – 9840260398.

Well Placed Palakkad native Nair Avittam 33/ 180cm Chennai based Engineering Rank holder with CFA FRM and MBA seeks Alliance from Educated Nair Girls call 8637657820.

NAIR PARENTS Chennai Own House seeks Educated Girl Employed or Unemployed for son 34/178 Chathayam B.E., MBA. well settled. 9884434362

SUDDHA JADHAGAM Nair 30/167 Makam, Pvt Job, Chennai, under going C.A Inter, Coimbatore settled. Subcaste nobar. Ph: 94434 77653.

SAURASTRA

SAURASTRA 36, Kanni Hastham, Bcom MBA, Manager Chennai Salary 1 Lakh Pm, Suitable Bride Wanted 9381725577

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs /178 cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Govt. service good looking lives in Nagercoil, Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/ Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230

CHRISTIAN CSI 29, 169cm BE, MNC/ 8Lak PA Handsome Seeks God Fearing Educated Girl. Contact: 6379397599

CHRISTIAN BORN Again 30/167, ME Kanyakuman District, Well settled family from Gulf Seeks suitable Bride. Contact: 9677037210

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 27 yrs, ht 5.9ft, BE, MS(UK) working in UK – Looking for good looking bride from same caste, ht 5.6ft willing to move to UK. Preferred denomination AG. Send details to praveen.s.aaron@gmail.com.

WORKING AS Engineer at Australia , Age 24, ME Mechanical AUS, Tamilian Seeks Bride should be any professionally qualified with IELTS general able to work at Australia, age 22 to 24 Tamilian Caste No , Email sekarcp@gmail.com, 9442263354

34, RISHABHA, Rohini, 5'8", Sozhiya Vellalar, caste no bar, suddha jadhagam, 9944232461

KONGU VELLALAR Gounder 35yrs BE. MNC Bangalore, 13 LPA, UnMarried, seeks suitable Educated Bride from same caste UnMarried/ Divorce/ widow (No Issues)- 9886572314

SEIVA PILLAI Qualification B.E, MBA Working At Bangalore Leading MNC Company Monthly Income 1. 5Lakhs, Divorce age 37 Seeks Only 1st Marriage Bride. No Other Caste. Call : 8072215374/ 8946262412

PILLAI GROOM 29/182cm Working in MNC 1L PA with good network, seeks suitable match. Cont: 97907 31734 or E-mail: elans.estentee@gmail.com

NATTUKKOTTAI CHETTIAR 40 MBA TCS H.R, Rs.15Lakhs PA seeks Bride CNB. Ct: 98846 88588 / 87545 48204.

TAMIL

MUDALIAR: 31, 180cms, B.E, MBA, Software Professional, Pune/Mumbai, six figure monthly salary, seeks bride, good looking, well educated, working, ready to relocate– 9821045663

MUDALIYAR, 36, 173cm, Moolam, Ortho Doctor seeks good looking educated affluent bride. Ct 90947 77999.

CASTE NO Bar, 1st Marriage, 1978/ 170 DCE well settled Mudunam, Business seeks bride. Ct: 9087869951

HINDU 50YEARS, 163Cm, Own Business, UK Permanent Citizen, Divorce. Seeks Fair, Good Looking Educated Bride with Good Family Background, Cast No Bar. Contact: 9940057666

MUDALIAR 29, BE, MBA, 175cm,24Lacs PA, well Settled Family Seeks Suitable Bride CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

RICH MUDALIYAR 28/M.B.B.S., ownHospital, own Kalyana Mandapam,Cinema Theatre, Lodges etc., seekingRich bride 7305491610

INTERCASTE PARENTS (F–chettiar M–saiva Mudaliyar) Seeks Suitable Working Girl (Vegetarian) for their son Age 31(B.E)/Uthiram/178cm s/Fair/SWE,Contact 9710080772

HINDU KALLAR 1991 born 172cms sw engg 26 lac pa mnc in chennai seeks graduate bride ph–9443065803

37/BTECH IT Professional active in agri and social activities vegetarian remarriage 9444444882

SC AD 36/167 M.Tech HR Central Govt. divorcee no encumbrance seeks suitable bride Contact: 99525-98743, 9994640670

AGAMUDAYAR 29/178 B.E. 15L /PA Seeks Good Looking Educated Affluent Bride from Good Family Ct 9790934460

SC DEVENDRAKULA Vellalar Karthigai 27/164 BE JE Southern Rlws Seeks Suitable Girl. 9443764038

PILLAI PUNARPOOSAM 35,175Cm MCA Software MNC 3L/PM Seeks Graduate Bride Caste NoBar–9176245009, 8143351235

HINDU VALLUVAN, 26/178, BA.,BL (Hons) working as Judicial Magistrate (Civil Judge), 10L/PA, Own House seeks Prof. Qualified & Govt. Employed Bride. Caste No Bar. 9444242996

BRIDE WANTED for Doctor, Radiologist, Hindu Pillai BC, 30 tall fair affluent family, BC/MBC. Ct:9865167703

SC/AD 31/178CM Kanni Uthiram Handsome B.Tech SBI Officer seeks good looking beautiful girl. Ct 9940292091

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 26/ Handsome, MBBS, MS Doing, Having Own Cinema Theatre, Kalyana Mahal, Shopping Mall, Chennai, Only Son, Elite Family, Seeks Bride Eng / Doctor – 7305810258

VANIYA CHETTIAR : 28/175, M.E, CTS, Eng. Chennai, Father Business, Elite Family , Seeks Bride Any Degree.– 9866285839

SAIVA PILLAI,34, 170 cms, Fair, Software Engineer (Worked in U.S) Divorced, No Children seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 7550356491

CHENNAI KIND Fair Phd Innoc Divorcee 39yrs GM Sports Rs 2Lac/ Mth. Educ Hindu girl. Ph: 9884171419

MUDALIAR 1985 Chithirai, Fair, B.E , Pvt, Well Settled Chennai Any Degree Emp/ Unemploy. Ct: 9962010118

TAMIL HINDU(BC). MBA, Age – 39. 1st marrige. Good boy & Good fair the most beautiful honest Boy needs a Girl. I have full Consent to be a Groom and a Good Son in the Girls House Family. (CNB). Avoid Brokers. Kannan : 91235 89257

TAMIL

MUDALIAR AGE 32, March 1990,170 Cm,B.Tech./T professional,12LPA, Rasi Thulam chithirai–3 Seeking Bride good looking Graduate Employed, Educated Family. Contact 9382617000.

WELL SETTLED Pillai 49Yrs 175cms B.E (Elect) Divorcee Athletic working in MNC seeks suitable graduate life partner in Chennai Ct: 9500083374. Email: asrkumar@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR, 38/185, M.Tech (IIT Madras: Microelectronics & VLSI Design), Principal Design Engineer (Chip Design) in an MNC in Bangalore, Eggetarian, Star: Kettai, seeks well educated, suitable bride (30–34 yrs). Caste No Bar. Ct: 9840117920.

HINDU REDDY 32/173 B.E., SWE Divorcee 20Lac pe CNB seeks suitable bride. CT:98943-87918, 94421-72774.

HINDU YADAV, 31/159cm, BE, MBA / IT Company / Rs.60,000/- PM. Seeks BE or Working Bride. Ct : 78717 66000

BITS PILANI 6'1 Engineer Mudaliar Boy born in Nov 91, Wkg in Corporate at Bangalore Salary 35-40 lacs seeks Engineer/Doctor 5'4" Ct: 7382620365.

HINDU AD PR 31/175, B.Tech NIT Trichy, MBA IIM Bangalore, MNC–35L per annum. Seeks Bride. 9442181645.

TAMIL VISWAKARMA 39/170 fair Thiruvonam Rich/ CA/ MNC/ 70,000 Seeks Same Caste Bride 9486320982

HINDU, 38/ 162 cm, Journalist, 50,000 p.m. first Marriage, Own house in Chennai. Seeks suitable Bride from BC, MBC. Divorcee or young widow without Child. Phone: 93613 65640

MUDALIAR 29 165cm BE Avittam Govt job Australia seeks well educated slim bride . Ct Geetham 9884858014

MBBS, MS (Gen Surgery) 1.5Lakh/PM, Age 30, Well Settled. Only one Son. Need: Dr, BE, Any PG Ct 8248257395

VELLALA PILLAI 33/176 MCA Rishabam Karthigai 1st marriage MNC Chennai 10L/year Subsect ok BHP WApp9790875623

RICH ARCOT Mudaliyar 28/ B.E.,Own (300 Buses), Wind Mills etc.,Seeks Rich Family Bride 7305491610

IYER 34/178 BE MS(USA) NewYork Visa–1140. Seek Iyer/Iyengar Girl IT Prfd India/USA. 9445813633/ 8248066063

MOOLAM, 47, DCE, Consultant Engineer, 50K/–pm. Seeks bride Sivacharier, any brahmin ok. Ct: 92832 01223

IYER, VADAMAL, GARGA, Mrigasheersham, DOB: 29.05.1992, 178 cm, Fair,Working in L&T Infotech as a Specialist, 16 Lakhs/Annum, in Chennai. Only son of aleading medical practitioner. Affluent family. Expectation: SUBSECT NO BAR. Looking fora graduate Iyer girl. Employment not a must. Contact: 9442438778

HARITHAM, REVATHI 1986/175cms B.tech(IT), PG Diploma in digital effects, lecturer Cochin. Any Brahmin, divorcee with or without child, educated employed. atulya1965@gmail.com

SEEKING BRAHMIN Bride willing to be Homemaker for our Son, MS (CS) USA, 27yrs/176 cms, Brahmin, Koundinyam, Vegetarian, No Smoking, No Drinking. Rich or Poor Family does not matter.Ct: Whatsapp: +1 732 372 8410

IYER SANKRITHI Bharani 49/175 very fair Handsome MBA, Phd., widower with 7yrs son,seeks a Graduate/PG homemaker Bride.Divorcee/Widow excuse. Subsect of Iyer/Iyengar No Bar. 9840323947/chandrag2000@yahoo.com

TAMIL

BHARADWAJA BANGALORE based Brahmin boy Vadama, 32/170, M.Tech, Senior System Manager in Dell Computers, seeks alliance from good looking homely girl to take care of the family. Education/ Caste/ Language no bar, must be strict Vegetarian. If girls are empld they have to quit the job. Horoscope match not essential. Ct: 9008964542

IYER BRAHACHARANAM Moolam Netrakshyapam Nov1973 Diplm working at PVT ORG 4L PA Seeks Any Girl 9840023524

USA–GC–AVP IYER 39 Vadhulam Pooradam 4, vegetarian non–smoker teetotaler divorced; seeks girl from Iyer/Iyengar community Ph +919080658946 Email: ar.matrimony@mygoe.info

ASTASHASRAM KARTHIGAI 53 MBA M.S, well settled Seeks educated 1st Marriage any Iyer brides only. BHP: sree.lashmi108@gmail.com

HINDU VALLUVAN 31/176, B.E (Mech.), M.A(Arth), TNPSC GROUP I, R&D Co-ordinator in Vetri IAS study Circle, Chennai, 60K/pm, Own House seeks Prof. Qualified & Govt. Employed Bride. Caste No Bar. 9444242996

TELUGU

KSHATRIYA RAJU, 46 (Unmarried), Chennai, seeks suitable bride. Ph: 9283727500, 9941372511.

BRAHMIN 28 5ft 9inch SBI Asst Mgr 70K Pm Minor Pblm In Right Hand Call: 9246268415

NAIDU, 27/180CM, BTech, MS. Pooratadhi , Working as Research Engineer in Sweden. Contact 9566682220

NAIDU KAMMA 38yrs well settled Businessman Earning Rental + other Income around 4.5L PM Caste No Bar, Divorcee. richguychennai@gmail.com

Arya Vysya Kota Sundeep B.Tech (HONS) M.S (USA) SR.Prod Lead, Google, USA Rem: 500k, Birth May-1989 Ht 6' Whitish Gothram Srikakula Required a Bright & Beautiful Arya Vysya Girl 5'4" Willing to stay at USA send details With Name, Dob:Tob:Pob to Wattsup 9848097375/9949077375 With Latest Photograph.

KAPU BOY, 6 feet 1 inch 28, B.Tech from IIT Kanpur,Group A gazetted officer in Govt of India seeks suitable alliance from Telugu/ Tamil speaking family. Contact: +91 8928575214

GAVARA NAIDU Hastham 28 Slim BE 16 LPA Seeks Qualified Employed Goodlooking Girl from Middle Class. 9443620099 & 9442480922

NAIDU 27/169, Handsome, Architect, Affluent Business Family, 200.Cr Net worth, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

NAIDU, GAVARA – 27/178, Engineer, from an educated family. Seeking for a good looking and broad minded girl either in India or abroad Contact : 9500812800

KAMMA NAIDU, B.E., MS. working in U.S born on 1988, Handsome seeks suitable Fair, Good Looking Girl, reputed family aged betwn 25-29yrs Subsect no bar. 9994915471/9840214580

URDU

SMU CHENNAI handsome BE/31/183 well settled family seeks bride Engineer/ Doctor/ MBA pious from educated family background. Ct: 9790793146

Urdu Muslim, Good looking, Fair, 27Y, 172/60, BE.,MBA, Associate Consultant, working in MNC seeks Well educated, Gd looking, Fair & Religious Bride from Tamil Nadu. Contact: 9843574225, showhath@gmail.com

New York Employed, 36, 5'11", Engineer with Management Degree from Columbia University, only Son of a Chennai based Family of Professionals, seeks suitable Bride. Early marriage. Contact : 8050010888.

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN/CASTE NO BAR, 41, 178 cms, Businessman, Masters. Lives in Chennai. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR/CASTE NO BAR, 40, 168 cms, Businessman, BSc. Lives in the UK. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448345

MUDALIYAR, 28, 180 cms, Businessman, Masters in Management. Lives in London. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448343

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 32, 173 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Dubai. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

MOOPANAR, 30, 183 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Madurai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match in and around Madurai. Contact: 6366448345

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 26, 159 cms, Entrepreneur, Masters in Management. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match from the same community. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 26, 152 cms, pursuing PG. Lives in Bangalore. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable well educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 23, 163 cms, Entrepreneur, BE. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match in Chennai. Contact: 6366448345

MARAVAR, 25, 170 cms, BE. Lives in Tirunelveli. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from a business family from any metro city. Contact: 6366448345

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 26, 165 cms, Professional, ME. Lives in Chennai. Father is a working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 99629 76000

DOCTOR

HINDU KALLAR GROOM

1995/174cm,Swathi/Thulam Doctor, MD, Practising in St.Stephes's Hospital, Delhi seeks suitable bride. Doctor preferred. Sub-sect no bar.

Mob: 88077 37237

HINDI

33/ 5'2"unmarried boy (Renal Transplanted) BE, MBA, IIT (M) from well settled professional Agarwal family of Chennai seeks qualified like minded bride. No other Conditions or bar.

Whatsapp : 9841060505

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

WANTED GOOD Looking Educated Bride for 30 year hearing impaired boy, B.Tech, MNC, Hindu. Ct: 9444075266.

SINDHI

30YRS HINDU Divorcee 1991 born Tall, 181cms &handsome, well settled, Chennai based, B.Sc educated Sindhi groom looking for a kind and cultured, good looking bride with wheatish–fair complexion. Caste & marital status no bar. Chennai– 9884335911

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN GROOM aged 33, qualification B.E., need homely life partner in Pentacostal or CSI with any degree and own house. Please Contact: 9940542177 / 9840451145

ENGINEER, 53, 180 cms, unmarried, Bangalore seeks graduate lady. Mob 8098866952.

CSI Nadar Christian Girl,1996, M.E. Alliance God Faith Groom Mobile 9952822930.

CHRISTIAN PARENTS invite suitable proposals for son living in London, B.E., M.B.A. (U.K.), aged 45, working for a global firm, and also governing successful and growing family businesses in the U.K. and India with initiatives to expand to other countries. Please contact mother at selina@vineyardhills.in.

TAMIL

NADAR, 1980, HC Advocate, Rich only son, seeks Dr, Engg, Employed Bride. CNB. Ct: 94888 86819

TAMIL HINDU Viswakarma, Un married /45 / 167/ MBA/ Concentrix Manager, 1Lak pm, Seeks alliance from fair girl as Bank Executive/ Corporate Job. Caste no bar. Ct: 9360325183.

CASTE NO bar 1980 Bank Manager, Star: Bharani/ Mesham. Chennai–59. Seeks Bride. Ct. 9566209536/ 22394878

VADHAKALAI SADHAYAM Srivaiyam, 46, B.A, Employed, Unmarried, Seek Brahmin girl/Divorcee with no child Okay. Cln 9444740544.

AD GROOM 31/165, MBA, Own business & Guest house Co owner in Greams Road, Chennai, 50,000 PM, seeks suitable Dip/ Degree in Pharmacy/ any degree below 28 yrs, AD bride, CNB. Ct: 9003824212

HINDU AD (PR) Retd. Chief Logistics I/C of BPCL (Retail) SR invite alliance for their son 29 BE, MBA (Symbiosis, Pune) Area Sales Manager, MNC Trichy CTC 10Lpa. Employed Girl preferred. 9444901839/ 9344533281

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA– Doctor M.D, D.M., slim fair good looking 41/ 175 own hospital 7 lac \ pm well settled clean habits innocent divorce seeks bride unmarried /divorce fair and slim doctor or any degree from good family below 38– no expectation. Contact 6382218317

TELUGU

KAMMA NAIDU, 27/Ht 165cm/MBA,UK, Well Settled Business Family in Chennai. Seeks Groom Im–kamma naidu upper Middle Class Family. Ct:80968 66465

ELITE RICH Kamma Naidu 26/B.Tech.,M.B.A. Own (200 Buses)Omni Bus ServicesAll over India 500 Crs. Family only Daughterseeks Groom. 9087604894

TELUGU

NAIDU 26/170, Fair,Beautiful,Doing Masters, Business Family,100 Cr Net worth, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

URDU

SMU GIRL 28/167 Doctor MD 2nd year Seeks Suitable Doctor groom from good family. Ct: 9585547701

URDU

MUSLIM GIRL 33/173 Sr. SWE in UK on work visa, Seeks IT Professionals groom age below 37 and above 173cm willing to relocate. Cont: 9003765355

SUNNI MUSLIM, Girl 24/165 B. Design, Fair, Slim, Working seeks well Educated Groom. 9841106166

MBBS 25 / 175cm, slim, fair, Religious Imly seeks Doctors btw 28yr preferably Chn wing to migrate USA 9342926472

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RISE 01:40	SET 13:45

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	27	19

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant.Chances of rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be comfortable. Thunderstorm may occur.

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Rain puts the brakes on rejuvenation of lakes

Residents say they have been waiting for years for the process to be completed; around 30 lakes are currently being revived

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

The rainfall in the last few weeks, which wreaked havoc in many parts of the city-, has also put the brakes on the rejuvenation of Bellandur and Varthur lakes among others. Desilting will have to be stopped for at least three months now as lakes are getting filled up again. This, accompanied with slush around the lake, will make it difficult for vehicles used for desilting to reach the lakes, said civic officials.

While Bellandur and Varthur lakes are being rejuvenated by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), a few others – such as the upstream Kaggadasapura lake – are being done by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The residents are getting tired of the wait for the process to be completed. "In our review before the rains, we had seen that one third of the Bellandur lake was being desilted. They had gone up to ten feet in depth and had removed silt. They wanted to complete at least half of the lake before the monsoon. Now with these rains, we are losing time. We have been waiting for years for the process to be finished", said Sonali Singh, a resident and activist from Bellandur.

At Varthur lake, around 70% of desilting work was completed, according to residents and officials. "There has not been much progress for almost a month. The desilting process was close to completion. But now, the lake is flooded again and causing problems to the nearby roads", said Jagadish Reddy Nagappa, a resident of Varthur.

"The lake work is totally hampered. We are not aware when they will start the desilting process. A lot of work is still pending here. We are suffering from water crisis and heavily dependent on water tankers. We are hoping that once the lake is restored, at least ground water level will rise up", said Rasmita Jena of Kaggadasapura lake forum.

Aravind, Assistant Engineer, BDA, admitted that post monsoon, they have to wait for at least a month before they can start the desilting process again. "While we had dewatered the lakes and started the process, now we should empty it again once the rain stops completely. This, however, does not mean we should start from scratch. The process will start from wherever it has stopped now," he maintained.

Around 30 lakes in the city are currently being rejuvenated by BBMP, out of which 15 are undeveloped. "But only a few lakes are being desilted. Even there, we will continue work like bund formation and other concrete work. Only silt removal has to be done later", said Vijaykumar Haridas, Chief Engineer, Lake Division, BBMP.

A view of Kaggadasapura lake that is being rejuvenated by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Submit report on rain damage in three days, CM tells officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday directed all district in-charge secretaries, Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners and officials from the Agriculture Department to compulsorily inspect the rain-hit areas in districts and submit a report within the next three days to the Chief Secretary.

At a video conference with DCs, Zilla Panchayat CEOs and other officials held to discuss rain havoc and resultant damages on Saturday, the Chief Minister directed the officials to ensure coordination between various departments and discharge their duties.

"Obtain information from Revenue, RDPR and Minor Irrigation departments and clear all the files related to floods without any delay," he told the officials.

Film made in Bengaluru goes to Cannes

PRAVEEN S.
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based Shruthi Raju, a first-time filmmaker, will be among the Indians participating in the 75th annual Cannes Film Festival in southern France. Her short film *What's Up With Indian Men?* will be shown in Cannes Court Metrage online Video Library on May 25 during the festival.

The 15-minute film, mostly in English, is a lighthearted social satire that looks at different generations of men through a woman's eyes. After working on more than 120 original theatre shows across south India under the banner of Underdog Entertainment, which she co-founded, Shruthi recently ventured into films. The short film is adapted from a play she wrote and acted in.

A still from the movie *What's Up With Indian Men?*

The 2012 play of the same name, she says, was well-received by audiences across age groups. Zach Miller, an American documentary filmmaker, who watched the play, suggested she turn it into a film. Shruthi started the work in 2021.

Without prior experience in filmmaking, the task was challenging. One of the them was performing for the camera as opposed to a live audience. "In theatre, when you perform in front of the audience, you emote a lot with your body, your eyes, your voice... But in film, you have to tone it down. You need to be subtle," she says.

Shruthi, however, brought in some elements that are quintessentially theatre to the film. "We have a slam poetry intercut between scenes, which is not something you usually see in movies." The short film is just a prototype of a feature film she intends to make this year. Which is why its presentation at Cannes is a big deal for Shruthi. "We would have the chance to meet agents and distributors from all over. In fact, some people from China and New Zealand have already reached out to us."

This is her first visit to Cannes. She is excited to represent Karnataka. "We'll be wearing the Mysuru *peta* (turban)." She plans to watch as many films as she can, participate in filmmaking workshops, and get a good deal for her film.

Three held; valuables worth ₹1.2 crore seized

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Talaghattapura police on Saturday arrested three persons, including a couple, and recovered gold and diamond valuables worth ₹1.2 crore from them.

The accused have been identified as Ratna Kumar Reddy, 40, his wife Tahsin Fathima, 36 and brother-in-law Arshad Nadeem, 34.

According to the police, Ratna Kumar is a part of the infamous Ojikuppam gang operating in and around the city since 2015.

The accused, on April 28, had stolen gold and diamond valuables from a car parked on a bank's premises in Talaghattapura. The owner of the car had withdrawn the valuables from the locker, kept it in the car and gone to a nursery adjacent to the bank to buy plants, when the accused broke open the windshield of the car and escaped with the bag containing the jewels.

Based on the complaint, the police verified the CCTV footage and identified the accused and went to his hometown. They they raided his apartment in Chennai and arrested his wife Tahsin, and recovered the jewels worth ₹ 5 lakh which the accused had given to her. The remaining valuables were recovered from Nadeem.

Jewellery heist case cracked; 10 from Jharkhand arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The JP Nagar police cracked the Priyadarshini Jewelers burglary case wherein a gang drilled a hole into the shop to steal five kilos of gold valuables worth ₹2.5 crore on April 18.

Eight special teams had been formed to track down the accused, including a woman. The arrested have been identified as Adil Munarrul Haq, Sulaiman Sheikh, Azeezur Rahman, Ramesh Bista, Raju Bista, Saddam, Munrul Sheikh, Sharfuddin Sheikh, Saleem Sheikh and Sainoor Baby from Jharkhand.

The police recovered 1.1 kg of valuables worth ₹55 kg, while efforts are on to recover the rest, Harish Pandey, DCP, south division, said.

Explaining the modus operandi, the police said it was a well-planned and executed crime by the accused who had rented a second-floor house in an adjacent building just about a month ago. The jewellery store is on the ground floor of a three-storey building in JP Nagar. The first and second floors are used as family guesthouses and have separate entrances.

K. Rajudevadiga, 59, owner of the shop, told the police that the accused had drilled a hole in the wall of the second floor to gain entry into the shop and used gas cutter to break open the iron safe and take away the gold jewels worth ₹2.5 crore. The police, based on the CCTV footage and the CDR, tracked down the accused to their hometown in Jharkhand and arrested them.

The accused had disposed of a major part of the valuables, which would be recovered in due course, the police said.

Dak Adalat to be held on June 15

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The office of the Postmaster General, South Karnataka Region, Bengaluru, will hold Dak Adalat on June 15 at 11 a.m.

According to a release, grievances/complaints relating to postal matters pertaining to South Karnataka Postal Region comprising Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Davangere, Hassan, Kolar, Kodagu, Mandya, Dakshina Kannada, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, and Udupi districts may be sent on or before June 10, 2022 addressed to The Assistant Director (Staff), O/o the Postmaster General, South Karnataka Region, II Floor, GPO Building, Bengaluru - 560001.

The Adalat will be held at the conference room, O/o the Postmaster General.

Government of Karnataka
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION BIDAR
Phone/Fax: 08482 232080, E-mail : bdr_eemi @yahoo.com eemibidar@gmail.com

No EE/MI&GWD/BDR/TS-1,2,3,4, & 5/Tender/2022-23/573 Date: 18-05-2022

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER DETAILS

1) Name of Works: As mentioned in e-Portal, 2) Estimate cost of Work : As mentioned in e-Portal, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: As mentioned in e-Portal, 4) Amount put to tender:As mentioned in e-Portal, 5) Cost of tender form & Details of EMD: As mentioned in e-Portal, 6) Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications KW-1,2 ,3& 4: **01-06-2022 Up to 17-00 AM,** 7) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders KW-1 & 2: **08-06-2022 Up to 16.00 Hours,** 8) Date & time for opening of financial bid KW-1 & 2:**10-06-2022 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 9) Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications KW- 3 & 4: **01-06-2022 Up to 17-00 AM,** 10) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders KW- 3 & 4:**15-06-2022 Up to 16.00 Hours,** 11) Date & time for opening of Technical bid KW- 3 & 4:**17-06-2022 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 12) Date & time for opening the financial bid KW- 3 & 4: **20-06-2022 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 13) For any clarification and details, office to be contacted: Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division Bidar, Phone/ Fax : 08482 232080, 14) Website details: e-procurement portal **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
MI & GWD Division, Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/72/MC&A/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client intend to buy the below mentioned Schedule property from **Smt. D.S. SANDHYA**, Aged about 38 years, W/o. Sri.C.S. Ramamurthy & D/o Sri. C.S. Sampangiramaiha, Residing at **Chakarasanahalli Village, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk and District.** If any persons or Institution, Authority etc., have got any objections or claiming any right, title and interest of what so ever nature on the Schedule Property, are hereby required to communicate the same along with supporting documents to me at my Office within **(10) TEN days** from this day. Otherwise, the Sale transaction will be completed without any reference or regard to any such purported claim or interest, which shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purposes.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **agriculture property bearing New Sy. No.230, Old Sy. No.144, Situated at Chakarasanahalli Village, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk and District, Karnataka, Measuring 01 Acre** and bounded on :

East by : Property belonging to Sri. A.Venugopal Reddy. West by : Property belonging to Sri. Chandrachari North by : Property belonging to Smt. Ashwathamma and South by : Property belonging to Krishnappa and Munishamappa.

Mr. B.T. PRASANNA KUMAR,
B.Sc.,L.L.B., Advocate
No.56, I Main, 6th Cross,
Sudhamanagar, Bangalore-27.
Ph. 92431 18157

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public are hereby informed that my client **Mr.M.F.Mohamed Ali** S/o Mohamed Fasihuddin, resident No.125, 2nd Floor, 23rd Cross, 4th Main, HSR Layout, 7th Sector, Near Kalpatharu Apartments, Bangalore-560 068, is intend to Purchase the schedule property from its owner **Mr.S.K.Samiulla** S/o Mr.Asadulla, resident of No.53, 4th A Cross, 36th Main, Dollars Scheme BTM Layout 1st Cross, Bangalore-560 068.

The general public are hereby notified that in case if any person/s asserting any legitimate right, objection/s or claim over the schedule property or any part thereof, they may forward such right/s or objection/s or claim/s along with the relevant documentary proof, to the undersigned with **7 days** from hereof. All such claims/objections received after 7 days from the date of notification shall not be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing vacant **Site No.12/A,** formed out of Old Bommanahalli City Municipal Council Khatha No.23/59/7/12-A, BBMP Khatha No. 25/25/2/59/7/12A, situated at **Bommanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. Presently comes under the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Limits., Bangalore,** measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, totally measuring **1200 Square Feet** and bounded as follows:

East by : 20 Feet Road, West by: Channappa Reddy's Property. North by : Property No.13/A, South by: Property No.14/A.

M.R.REVANNA, Advocate
No.264, 1st Floor, Behind Ganesh Temple
Begur Road, Bommanahalli
Bangalore-560068. Ph:99806 28324

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER FOR TRACK, TRD & SIGNALLING WORKS

Sr. No. (1) Tender Notice No.: CEC/BSP/22-23/06, Date: 13.05.2022. (Open Tender). Work: "Track TRD and Signalling works for new line (G.C.) Project in the section commending from Ex Kendri Station to Dhamtari Station (49.500 K.M.) in the state of Chhattisgarh in the South East Central Railway Zone of EPC mode". **Tender Value:** ₹126,17,00,000/-. **Earnest Money Deposit:** ₹ 63,08,500/-. **Cost of Tender Document:** Nil. **Completion period of work:** 24 (Twenty Four) Months from the date of issue of acceptance letter.

Date & Time of Tender Closing: Upto 15.00 hours on 27.07.2022.

For further details related to tender document eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/South East Central Railway/Bilaspur- Pin: 495004 or Dy.Chief Engineer (Con)/ S.E.C.Railway/Raipur, Pin- 492009 or Chief Engineer (Con)/South East Central Railway/Nagpur, Pin- 440001 or refer on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**

For Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)/
CPR/1037 S.E.C.Rly.,Bilaspur.

South East Central Railway @secrail

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, OISIP, JICA
ODISHA WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
At: Mahanadivihar, P.O: Nayabazar, Cuttack- 753004
Phone No.: 0671-2444511, E-Mail ID : ce_ jica@owssb.in

Bid Identification No.02/OISIP, JICA, OWSSB Dt.18.05.2022

Name of the work : Construction of House Connections to the sewerage system, Cuttack inside property of BPL House Hold Cuttack city (Package-01 to Package-03 in different zones)

Sl.No.	Description	Critical Dates
1	Availability of tenders online	23.05.2022 (5.00 P.M) to 15.06.2022 (5.00 PM)
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	31.05.2022 (12:30 PM)
3	Last date & time of bid Submission (Online)	15.06.2022 (5 P.M)
4	Date & time of Opening of Technical Bid	17.06.2022 (12.30 PM)

The details of the tender will be available in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, OISIP, JICA, OWSSB, Cuttack

CAD-592 OIPR-32431/11/0005/2223

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMC)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel.:(0674) 2380608; Website:www.osmcl.nic.in; Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in

Asserting Quality, Saving Lives

Notification No.3311/OSMCL/2022 Dt.: 19.05.2022

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF IMPLANTS AND CONSUMABLES / ACCESSORIES RELATING TO CARDIOLOGY & CTVS DEPARTMENT ON RATE CONTRACT BASIS

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of the Implants and Consumables / Accessories relating to Cardiology & CTVS Department on Rate Contract Basis as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST
1.	OSMCL/2022-23/Implant Consumable_Cardiology _ CTVS /01	For supply of the Implants and Consumables / Accessories relating to Cardiology & CTVS Department on Rate Contract Basis	Rs.5,600/-

Sl. No	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	20.05.2022, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	26.05.2022, 11 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		01.06.2022, 3 PM	16.06.2022, 5 PM
4.	Date& time of Online Technical bid Opening	18.06.2022, 3 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the Technically qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha

CAD-590 OIPR-10112/11/0009/2223

BERHAMPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GANJAM
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

Letter No. No. 5579 / **Invitation for Bids** Date :19.05.22

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT

Bid Identification No.BMC(BAM) 260 / 2022-2023

1.	The Municipal Commissioner, Berhampur, invites percentage rate bids in ONLINE MODE only, as per annexure "A".	
2.	Nature of Work	CIVIL
3.	No. of work	01 Nos.
4.	Bid Cost	The bidders shall remit online the cost of bid document for amount through the process as mentioned in the DTCN as per Annexure "A"
5.	E.M.D.	The bidder shall remit online the Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security at the rate of 0% of the estimated cost put to tender as mentioned under DTCN. Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipments from outside the State or owned but deployed outside the State are required to remit online 2% of the amount put to tender as Bid Security. Exemption from EMD is permissible as per codal provisions of Govt. Of Odisha as per Annexure "A"
6.	Class of Contractor	AS per the Annexure "A"
7.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	From 10.00 hrs. of Dt. 21.05.22 to 17.00 hrs. of 09.06.22
9.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids.	11.30 hrs. onwards on Dt. 10.06.22
10.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bids.	Shall be intimated to the responsive Technically qualified bidder after evolution of Technical bids.
10.	Mode of submission of Tender	Tender Should submitted On line in - www.tendersorissa.gov.in
11.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum /corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

Commissioner,
Berhampur Municipal Corporation,
Berhampur, Odisha

C-326 OIPR-13035/11/0009/2223

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Walk in interview
on Monday
23rd May 2022
Time: 10 am -1 pm
Requirements

(A) BD Executive
(Male / Female)

(B) Operation Executive
(Male)

Bangalore Office :
#633, Jai Ganesh Building,
4th cross, 3rd Block,
Koramangala,
Bangalore : 560034
Ct: 98409 68882 / 95970 86258

In the dock: A Pakistani fishing boat, *Al-Haj*, recently seized in a drug smuggling case, moored at the Jakhau port.

Border point: BSF jawans keep vigil at the L point, 1175 pillar (last point of the India-Pakistan International Border) at the Kori creek.

Security exercise: BSF jawans intercept a fishing boat at the Kori creek.

Put out: Seized Pakistani boats at the Harami Nada at the Kori creek.

Coming to rest: A general view of the Veraval harbour towards the end of the fishing season.

Vidurashwatha memorial panel seeks protection

The memorial at Vidurashwatha. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Vidurashwatha village, located in Gauribidanur taluk of Chickballapur district, famous for playing a significant role in the Indian Independence movement, is in the news as the committee taking care of the memorial there has approached the police and the district administration seeking protection from people who are allegedly threatening to burn it down.

The village is likened to Jallianwala Bagh, as 32 people who went to hoist Swaraj India flag defying prohibitory orders were gunned down and several others wounded at this place.

The historical place of the massacre has now been developed into a memorial and a committee has been formed to take care of it. The memorial also has an installation on Gandhiji's assassination and exhibits on many freedom fighters, which has become the bone of contention for a section of Hindutva right wing organisations.

For the past two weeks, a group of people have been visiting the spot and asking the security staff to remove details on Hindutva ideologue Vinak Damodar Savarkar, said a member of the committee.

The groups also threatened the security guard and told him that they would burn down the place if they did not remove certain details by the birth anniversary of Savarkar which falls later this month. The group said that they are organising a bike rally to mark the anniversary.

Taking serious note of this, the committee, in a meeting held recently, involving senior officials of the district and the police, requested the authorities to provide required security.

The police have been stationed to maintain law and order. Elaborating on the issue, a senior police officer said that the group, which had objections, has been asked to approach the DC to resolve their issue. However, the police will take legal action if there is any law and order issue at the site , the officer said.

Customs officials seize 4.4 kg of ephedrine crystals worth ₹89.9 lakh at KIA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Officials of the Customs Intelligence Unit busted an international drug racket and arrested a Chennai-based man.

They seized 4.4 kg of ephedrine crystals worth ₹89.9 lakh from him. The crystals were concealed in readymade garments to be dispatched to Australia from the international courier terminal at the cargo unit in Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru on May 20.

The accused used to book such shipments for export using morphed Aadhaar cards to avoid getting caught.

In the follow-up action, Vijayawada police arrested an individual in Chennai, who had morphed the Aadhaar card of a Guntur-based individual with his own photograph. He had approached a courier agency in Vijayawada to export the above-mentioned shipment. He was remanded in judicial custody for various offences. Customs officials have advised people not to share their ID, as they could be misused.

Building platforms to fly across the sky
INVITATION TO OPERATE HELIPORTS

NOTICE

Directorate of Tourism (DoT), Government of Uttar Pradesh, as a part of its efforts to boost tourism in the state, invites RFQ to Select Developers for Development, Operations and Maintenance of Heliport at
AGRA & MATHURA
through PPP on Lease & Development basis in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Interested parties may download bid document from e-tender website **http://etender.up.nic.in** and also from Department of Tourism official website :- **http://uptourism.gov.in.**

The pre-bid for the Request for Qualification shall be held on **31.05.2022** at **12.00 PM** at **Department of Tourism, Lucknow Uttar Pradesh.**

Request for Qualification [RFQ] can be submitted online on or before **2.00 PM by 22.06.2022** along with Requisite Fee on the website **http://etender.up.nic.in**. Amendments to this Notice Inviting Tender (NIT), if any, would be published on the website **http://etender.up.nic.in** and **uptourism.gov.in.**

The issue of this Request for Qualification does not imply that the DoT is bound to select a developer or appoint the selected developer as the case may be, for development, operation and maintenance of Heliports at Agra & Mathura on PPP basis. Department reserves the right to reject all or any of the applications/bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

For any Enquiry, Department of Tourism can be contacted through email: **pmu.uptourism@gmail.com** or may contact on **+91-9810030297**. Interested parties may visit, **Paryatan Bhawan, 4th Floor, C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010.**

Director General, Tourism

ACTUAL SITE PHOTOGRAPHS OF HELIPORT AT AGRA & MATHURA

AGRA

MATHURA

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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RM No. KAREMG/2020/49960 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 53 • No. 21

The lack of reliable public transport has forced commuters to depend on private vehicles. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Experts say that there is a need for rationalisation of bus schedules. • FILE PHOTO

City's number of vehicles doubles in a decade, but BMTC fleet size stagnant

Number of buses in 2011-12 was 6,064, now it's 6,763; while number of vehicles has grown from 50 lakh to 1 crore in the same period

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's infamous traffic snarls may have inspired many a meme and film, the city's population and private vehicle count may have exploded, but the fleet size of the public transport utility has remained unchanged.

With the increase in the size of the city and the number of people, there has been an exponential rise in the number of vehicles as well. In the last one decade, it jumped from 50.33 lakh (2011 -12) to 1.04 crore in (till March 2022). Of the total vehicles registered in the city, more than 69.31 lakh are two-wheelers and 21.97 lakh are cars.

WIDE ANGLE

On other hand, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), which provides bus services in the city, has failed to expand its fleet size and increase the ridership. While the number of buses in 2011-12 was 6,064, now it is 6,763. The lack of a robust public transport system has forced Bengalureans to rely on private vehicles.

The Comprehensive Mobility Plan for Bengaluru, which was made public in 2019, stated that after 2011, the number of buses has not kept pace with the growing population of the city, and bus utilisation has been dwindling in comparison with the ever-rising number of private vehicles in the city. The mobility plan also projected that the city requires 12,134 buses by 2025 and 15,134 by 2031.

When the pandemic broke out, like other road transport corporations in the State, the BMTC too suspended introduction of new buses for close to two years. After a long gap, last December, the BMTC introduced electric buses on lease for the first time and inducted BSVI buses.

Ashish Verma, convenor, I-ISc Sustainable Transportation Lab, said, "Over the time, when the population is increasing and the city is growing rapidly, the travel demand too has gone up. To meet the demand, there is a need to increase the fleet size."

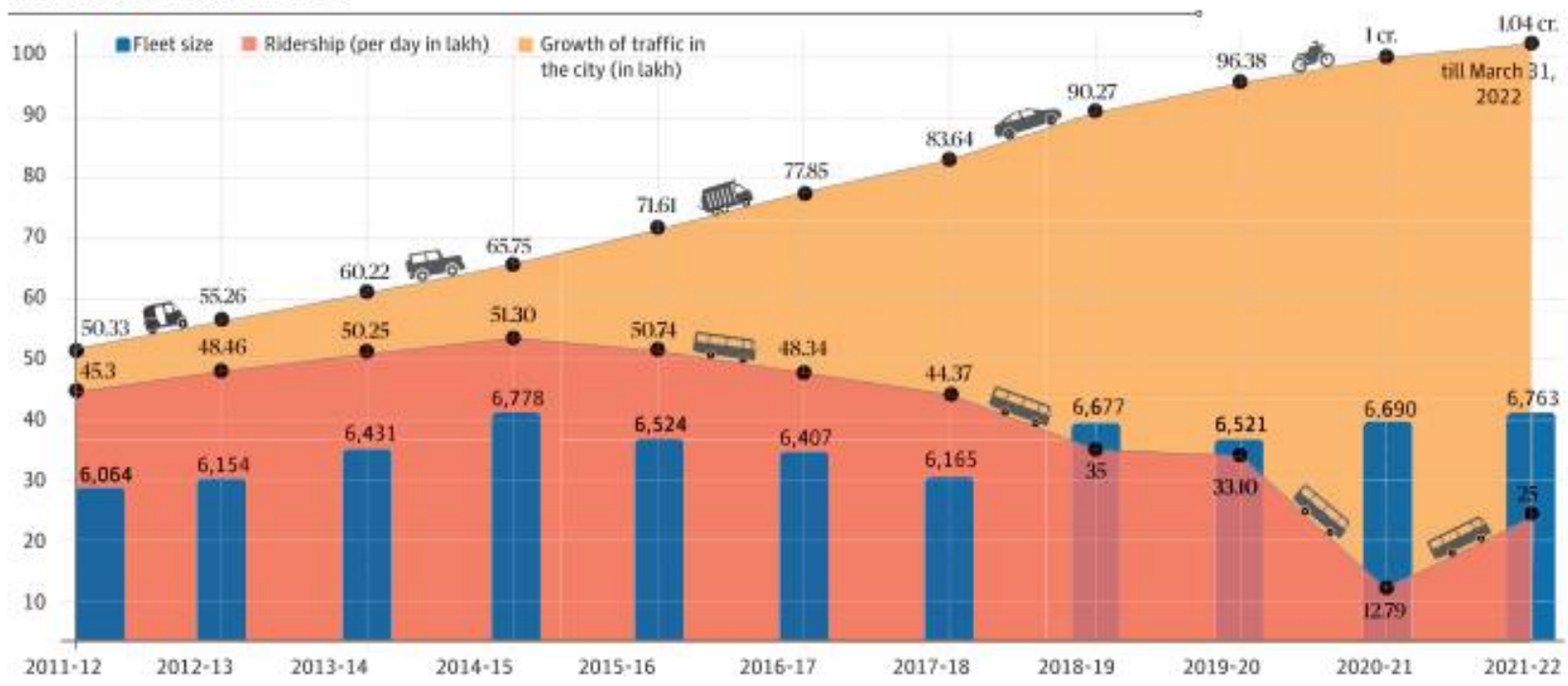
There are many complex issues why the BMTC could not expand its services, he explained. "Over the years, the BMTC not doing well in terms of finances over the years and outbreak of pandemic resulted in more financial burden. It is becoming a norm across the globe that governments are subsidising the transport system. Governments should fund procurement of new buses and subsidise the fare to make the bus services more affordable for the common man. In addition to inducting new buses, there is a need for thorough rationalisation of scheduling of services and providing bus networks," he added. Significantly, compared to other modes of public transport, the BMTC carries the highest number of passengers in the city. The BMTC has a fleet size of 6,763 buses and on an average, 25 lakh people are using the bus services every day. The corporation runs around 5,600 schedules of the services. On an average, 50,000 trips are operated daily on 1,800 to 1,900 routes.

On the other hand, BMRCL provides Namma Metro services on a 55 km metro line. At present, more than 4 lakh passengers use the metro services every day. The South Western Railway operates 39 MEMU and 24 DEMU services routes helping people to commute from suburban areas to Bengaluru.

People advocating for a robust public transport system demand the government to fund procurement of new buses and subsidise the bus fare. Bus Prayanikara Vedike on many occasions had demanded the State government to reduce the bus fare and make commuting affordable for common people. The Vedike maintains that bus fares charged in the city are higher than in other cities. On the other hand, BMTC officials say that the bus fares of BMTC have not been revised since 2014 despite rising fuel expenses and salary costs.

Chairman of the BMTC, N.S. Nandiesha Reddy said, "Though we have a fleet size of 6,700 buses, we are in a position to use 5,600 odd buses. The remaining buses are old and all are not fit to be operated on the road. From December, we have added 643 buses and 238 buses will be added very shortly. The State budgetary allocation has been made for 1,000 buses, which will be added in the coming year. Under the central government scheme, the BMTC will get 1500 buses out of which 300 are expected this year. The BMTC could not add the buses as the previous government did not provide enough funds for procurement."

BMTC bus fleet



Number of vehicles in Bengaluru

50.33 lakh	1.04 crore	69.31	21.97 lakh
in 2011 -12	in March 2022	lakh two wheelers	cars

The Comprehensive Mobility Plan for Bengaluru has projected that the city requires **12,134 buses** by 2025 and **15,134** by 2031.

Other modes of transport

Over 4 lakh people travel on the 55 km metro line in Bengaluru every day.

SWR operates 39 MEMU and 24 DEMU services on suburban routes

GRAPHIC: SHARATH RAM

BMTC to launch mobile app services by Aug.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The BMTC's attempt to bring in an intelligent transport system to make travelling more convenient and reliable has not yielded the expected results owing to various issues. There has been a growing demand from passengers to introduce a robust mobile app.

Director (IT) of BMTC Surya Sen A.V. said, "By August 15, we will introduce the mobile app which will have various features to help the general public. Passengers will be able to identify nearby bus stops, plan their journey, book tickets, share location and others. In case of emergency, they can also reach a helpline."

On the bus tracking system, he said that under the Nirbhaya scheme, buses are being fitted with tracking devices and cameras. "Due to a shortage of chips used in tracking devices, installation was delayed. Devices will be installed in 5,000 buses. This will help bring in operational efficiency and provide good services to the general public," he added.

Digital passes for students

The BMTC is also contemplating introduce digital passes for students. They can travel in city buses by showing their digital passes on the mobile. "Nowadays, most of the students use mobile phones. We are deliberating on the introduction of digital passes. Those who do not use mobiles can travel using smart cards (passes)," said Mr. Sen, adding that for the current academic year, the BMTC is planning to introduce 4 lakh passes.

Travel woes: Only 50% of bus stops in Bengaluru have shelters

While many of them are poorly lit, some others have broken benches; women face safety issues; people with disabilities and senior citizens upset with lack of inclusivity

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

Recently, a 30-year-old man died near Hebbal bus stop after he was electrocuted by an illegally drawn wire by a private advertisement agency. As the city moves towards pre-COVID scenarios, and with the impending arrival of the monsoon, the focus is back on the poor status of bus shelters, or a lack thereof, for the city's commuters.

An official of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), which maintains bus stops, admitted that only 50% of bus stops in the city have bus shelters.

Where is the bus stop?

Citizens questioned the utilitarian value of the bus stops/shelters. They pointed out that if one is not a regular commuter on a particular route, it becomes a Herculean task to identify bus stops, especially on the outskirts like Yelahanka, Jigani, Nelamangala and others.

At some places, there are not even signages to indicate the presence of bus stops. Even within the Central Business District (CBD), some prominent bus stops do not have bus shelters.

"The buses too sometimes do not halt at the stops that do not have shelters if there are just one or two people waiting. Vijayanagar, is where I board my bus. Yet, come rain or shine, we have not had a bus shelter here for decades", said Babu of Vijayanagar Vendors Association. He also said as a person who only uses BMTC as a mode of transport, has seen more stops without shelters in the city than the ones which have.

At bus stops, where there are shelters, there are other problems, like broken roofs and benches, and dirty platforms. Vinay Sreenivasa of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV) pointed out how even though BMTC is the most relied upon public transport system in the city, the civic body does not care about its maintenance.

He added: "Shelters too are designed in such a way that if people sit on the seats, they cannot see the incoming bus. They have to stand up to take a look, which defeats the purpose of the shelter".

People wait for buses at Balakundri Circle bus stop in Bengaluru on Saturday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Safety issues

Women commuters made a note of how they do not feel safe at the bus stops, due to dim or even no lighting. Some even confessed to facing harassment at bus stops even during day time. "Especially on the outskirts, where there will not be many people, many take advantage and catcall or eve tease, even when we are in groups", said Nayana, an NGO worker, who often travels by buses to her assignments.

Geeta Menon of the Domestic Workers Union also mentioned how most spaces at bus shelters are usually occupied by men and women stand a few meters away due to security fears.

The disabled and senior citizens in the city face their own share of problems at these bus stops – from seats without backrests to no drinking water or restroom facilities, and lack of boarding assistance. "When senior citizens come to bus stops, they will obviously prefer to sit and wait for the buses. These seats are sometimes broken or dirty. Coming to disabled people, except for main depots, at other bus stops there are no ramps or assistance to help them board the bus. There will be too much gap between the platform and the road", said V.S. Basavaraju, former state Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

'Not in front of my property'

A senior official of BBMP said that the main reason behind the lack of bus shelters in the city is the citizens' "not in front of my property" mindset. "No property owner wants a bus shelter in front of their property as they think it will reduce its commercial value or affect business. The bus shelters should be at least two feet in length and people are not good with giving out this space to the public. Additionally, we also have to ensure that we do not build bus stops where important lines of BWSSB or Bescom pass," he explained.

Ashish Verma, professor, Sustainable Transportation Lab, IISc, mentioned how in Bengaluru, the public transport provider, BMTC, has almost no say in the planning, construction and maintenance of bus stops, which is one of the root causes of the problems.

"The location of where the bus stops should be, their design and orientation are unfortunately not seen from the public point of view. The BBMP's focus is more on revenue, which is why they build bus shelters in areas where they can get more ads," he pointed out.

Lesson on Bhagat Singh returns to textbook

Yuva Brigade founder Sulibele's lesson has been added

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Following outrage and protests over exclusion of a lesson on Bhagat Singh by senior scholar G. Ramakrishna from Class X First Language Kannada textbook, the Government has now re-introduced it.

However, along with this, the Education Department has decided to include a lesson by Chakravarthi Sulibele, founder of Yuva Brigade and a strong supporter of Bharatiya Janata Party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The lesson authored by him, "Taayi Bharatiya Amara Putraru" (Mother Bharati's immortal sons), is now part of the non-detailed text.

Earlier, the textbook revision committee, headed by Rohith Chakrathirtha, had dropped the lesson authored by Prof. Ramakrishna. It had added a speech by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar as part of the textbook. Both these were met with protests from various quarters.

Following this, the government has now decided to retain Prof. Ramakrishna's work. However, Hedgewar's speech has been continued in the textbook, while newly introducing the chapter by Mr. Sulibele. One more lesson titled "Samajika Mattu Dharmika Sudharakaru" (Social and Religious Reformers) has also been added.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Chakrathirtha said: "We have retained the lesson on Bhagat Singh with exhaustive details. We have added Mr. Sulibele's text as well." Asked if this would not lead to another round of controversy, he said: "Some people revel in controversies and there is little one can do about it. I am ready to face them."

This flipflop over textbook content has many schoolteachers worried. "The committee is not following any norms in including or excluding lessons," said a teacher who did not wish to be named.

Also, with all the additions, the number of lessons has gone up in the non-detailed first language textbook. The previous Class X textbook had only five lessons, which has now increased to seven. Teachers said that it increased the burden not only on them but also on the students.

'Dhwaja' instead of 'bhagwa dhwaja'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The speech of RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar that appears as the lesson "Nijavada Adarsha Purusha Yaaragabeku?" (Who should be the real role model?) in first language Kannada text of Class X has undergone some interesting editing.

The original text of Hedgewar's speech, while talking about how the flag symbolises the history and culture of a country, uses the word "Bhagwa dhwaja", which is specifically the flag of the RSS. The Class X text, however, uses just the word "dhwaja" (flag) instead.

Textbook revision committee head Rohith Chakrathirtha told *The Hindu*, "Hedgewar's speech was made in a certain context, which is different from what it is now. We have made some modifications to suit the school curriculum framework." He said that editing a text suitably for the syllabus is not unprecedented and it was done by the previous textbook committee too.

Writers, academicians raise questions

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

In an open letter, academicians, writers and litterateurs from across the State have questioned the revisions made to school textbooks in Karnataka by a committee headed by Rohit Chakrathirtha and argued that syllabus cannot be changed with the change of a political regime to suit its ideological stances.

They have also questioned the criteria used for the appointment of Mr. Chakrathirtha to head the committee.

"Mr. Chakrathirtha is not an education expert nor has he done any active research in the educational sector. Under what criteria was he selected as the head of the committee?" asked the letter which is signed by over 80 people including Dr. K. Marulasiddappa, Dr. Ganesh Devy, Dr. Vijaya, B.T. Lalitha Nayak, Dr. Rahamat Tarikere and others.

While arguing that decisions regarding textbook content curation and revision should only be taken by the experts in the field, the writers also opined that along the lines of the Election Commission, a separate commission should be formed for the creation and revision of textbooks.

They said that texts that divide communities or impose ideological blinkers cannot be included in school curriculum. Lessons that uphold equality should be prioritised, they said.

Work under way

Flyover work begins at H.D. Deve Gowda Circle on Outer Ring Road at Veerabhadranagar, which is part of the signal-free corridor from Mysuru Road to Central Silk Board junction on Hosur road, by BBMP on Saturday. Due to the work, traffic has been diverted to smaller service lanes. The work is expected to be completed in two years. • K. MURALI KUMAR

State reports 155 new cases, zero deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Saturday reported 155 new cases reducing the day's TPR to 0.77%. The weekly TPR reduced to 0.67% and the total number of cases touched 39,50,378. Of the new cases, 150 are from Bengaluru Urban.

With zero deaths, the State's toll remained 40,064. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded. As many as 166 persons were discharged on Saturday taking the total recoveries to 39,08,617. Active cases touched 1,655.

Vaccination: Only 23% of children in 12-14 age group fully vaccinated

Udupi has highest percentage of fully vaccinated children, Raichur has lowest

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Over two months after COVID vaccination was rolled out for children in the age group of 12-14 years, a mere 23% of the eligible 20.25 lakh children have been fully inoculated with both the doses. Besides, 3,02,954 children have not taken even a single dose of vaccination so far.

Vaccination for this age group began on March 15. Children born on or before March 15, 2010, are eligible for vaccination. Each beneficiary is to be inoculated with doses of CorBEvax, the authorised vaccine for this age group, in a gap of 28 days.

Although 85% (17,22,046) of eligible children in this age group have taken the first dose, only 4,66,786 of these have taken both the doses.

A school student being administered the vaccine against COVID-19 in Bengaluru. • FILE PHOTO

While Udupi has recorded the highest percentage (55%) of fully vaccinated children, Raichur has recorded the lowest at 4%. Udupi is followed by Vijayapura and Bengaluru Rural at 45% and 44% respectively.

In terms of first dose vaccination, five districts - Vijayapura, Bengaluru Rural, Udupi, Gadag and Bagalkot - have achieved 100% coverage. Kalaburgi and Bidar are nearing 100% first dose coverage.

Bengaluru Urban has the lowest first dose coverage at 66%. The second dose coverage here is 16%.

15-17 years group

The State has fully vaccinated (with both doses) 69% of the eligible 31.75 lakh children in the 15-17 years age group. Vaccination for this age group began on January 3 and as many as 5,84,385 children are yet to take even a single dose of vaccine. The Centre has authorised Covaxin for this age group and each beneficiary is to be inoculated with two doses in a gap of 28 days.

While one district (Gadag) has fully inoculated the eligible 58,380 children in this age group, Davangere and Raichur have recorded the lowest second dose coverage at 57% each.

In terms of first dose, while Gadag and Kodagu have exceeded the target and achieved 104% coverage, Chamarajnagar and Raichur have achieved the lowest coverage at 69% each.

Bengaluru Urban, with a target population of 5,02,842 children in this age group, has achieved 80% first and 66% second dose coverage.

Arundathi Chandrashekar, State mission director, National Health Mission (NHM), said the low progress of vaccination in the 12-14 age group was mainly because of summer vacation for schools. "Although schools have reopened, the attendance is low because of rains and holidays have been declared in some districts," she said.

Tension after Sangolli Rayanna's statue is stoned

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

Tension prevailed in Bendigeri village after unidentified persons allegedly threw stones at a statue of Sangolli Rayanna on Saturday.

The right toe of the statue, in the village square, was damaged slightly due to the stone-throwing. In a few minutes, a crowd gathered at the spot and demanded that the police arrest the culprits immediately. Some young men shouted slogans against the alleged offenders.

Personnel from the Hire Bagewadi police station rushed to the village and controlled the crowd. The group dispersed after the police assured investigation. A case has been registered.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT STAGE-II)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.: KPCL/2022-23/PM/WORK_INDENT12292 Date : 13.05.2022

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal)

Sealed bids are invited in duplicate for the work of **"Comprehensive Maintenance work of Voltas make 5H40 centralized AC Plant and its associated components through Annual Maintenance Contract at Kadra and Kodasalli power house for two years period 2022-24"** from reputed Bidders with proven track record of successful completion of similar nature of works. The NIT, Brief bid Notification as well as the details of tender documents can also be viewed on website:**https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 17,58,200/-**, EMD: **Rs. 44,000/-**, Tender Processing Fee: **As per e-Procurement norms.** Period of completion: **Two years from date of handing over of site.** Last date & time for Tender Queries & Clarifications: **24.05.2022, 17.00 hrs.** Last date & time for submission of tenders: **30.05.2022, 17.00 hrs.** Date & time for opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I): **01.06.2022, 10.30 hrs.** Date & time for opening Financial bid (Cover-II): **02.06.2022, 16.00 hrs.** The details of NIT & Tender documents may be downloaded from above GoK e-portal. **Further details can be had from the Superintending Engineer (Ele), (Kadra) KPCL, Kadra-581 396, Tq. Karwar, Uttara Kannada Dist., Karnataka. Ph.: 08382-256344, E-mail:seekadrakpcl@yahoo.in**

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
59, Richmond Road, (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road)
Bengaluru-25 Ph: 080 – 25584102/25594893
Website: www.ksphc.org e-mail : eecontractksphc@gmail.com

No.: EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/2022-23/94 Date: 21.05.2022

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTTP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document KW-2, 3 & 4 through e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in (Two Cover System) for the works of :

I Construction of 3 bay Fire Stations for the following locations:- 1) Sunkadakatte-Bengaluru Urban Dist. 2) Alur-Hassan Dist. 3) Mundagodu- Uttarakannada Dist. 4) Gonikoppa-Kodagu Dist. 5) Somavarpete-Kodagu Dist. 6) Devanahalli-Bengaluru Rural Dist. 7) Ramadurga-Belagavi Dist. 8) Sadalaga-Belagavi Dist. 9) Badami-Bagalkote Dist. & 10) Baindoor-Udupi Dist. (APT Amount Rs. 201.00 Lakhs).

II Construction of M T Shed in the premises of DAR at Haveri, Mysore, Hassan and Chitradurga. (APT Rs. 25.46 to Rs. 68.50 Lakhs).

III Construction of RFSL Buildings at Kalaburagi, Davanagere, Mysore and Belagavi. (APT Rs. 68.07 to Rs. 146.69 Lakhs).

IV Providing canteen to employees and repair and renovation for guard room at commissioner of police office annex Building in Bengaluru (APT Rs. 25.99 Lakhs).

The interested eligible contractors may participate in the tendering process.

The details such as Tender Fee, EMD, Tender Documents, Last date of receipt etc., are available on e-Procurement Portal from Dt. 30.05.2022. Any further details can be obtained from KSPH&IDCL during the office Hours.

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons."

Note: Henceforth any changes/modifications in the tender will be updated only on e-Procurement portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer – Contracts (I/c)

DIPR/CP/611/AKAR/22-23

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS, ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Social Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department
Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
Phone & Fax No : 08539 - 220054 email : eemidnkst@rediffmail.com

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2022-23/1240 Date : 18-05-2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-4 on E-procurement portal for 9 no of works pertaining to Koppal district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned works varies from Rs. **234.9 to 417.60 Lakhs.** The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through E-procurement portal only. **Two cover** tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **25-05-2022**. Last date & time for receipt of tender is **24-06-2022 time 17.30 hours**, pre bid meeting will be held on **16-06-2022 time 11.00 hours at this office**, date & time for opening of technical bid **27-06-2022 time 11.00 hours**, date and time for opening of financial bid **29-06-2022 time 11.00 hours** (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
Minor Irrigation and
Ground Water Development
Department Division Koppal.

DIPR/KOP/NIL/80/2022-23/DEPHRADE PUBLICITY

(Public Works Department)
Executive Engineer,
Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.

Invitation for Short-Term Tender (I.F.T.)
No.: 07/2022-23 Date: 19.05.2022

(For Bridge Works – As per Standard Bidding Document K.W. – 3 in two cover system)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the Undersigned invites Tenders in two cover system through e-procurement portal from eligible Contractors registered in PWD for works. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **20.05.2022 to 27.05.2022 up to 4.00 pm. (1)** Last date for objections-doubts and clarifications: **20.05.2022 (at 3.00 pm during office hours). (2)** Last date for submission of filled tenders: **27.05.2022 (up to 4.00 pm). (3)** Date of opening Financial Bid: **30.05.2022 at 11.00 am.**

For more information visit website **www.kpwd.gov.in** or contact this office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D.
Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura

ಜಾಹೀರಾತು/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಕಾ.ಟಿ.ಸಂ/91/ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2022-23

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE/RI-RRN/TEND/01/2022-23 Date: 21-05-2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)-(SHORT TERM)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division, invites tenders on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Contractors for the work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Emergency Works in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads of Road Infrastructure - Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division (Demolition of Nandish Park Apartment and Neighbouring Buildings including reconstruction of utilities in the Apartment.	32.59	0.66

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 20-05-2022 onwards. 2)** Date for Receipt of Queries: **27-05-2022. 3)** Last date for uploading the Filled Proposal is **04-06-2022 upto 16.30 Hrs. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposal is **06-06-2022 at 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the above office

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-RR Nagara Division, BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Phone No.:9448994705 Website: www.cescmysore.org Email:gmpurc@cescmysore.org

NO:CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM (P-2)/2022-23/3738 Date: 20-05-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Mode)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for supply of Line Materials, Maintenance Materials & Conductor as mentioned below:

SL. No	Line Materials Name	Enquiry No/ Date
1	200 Amp, 11kV SB GOS (Ceramic Insulators)	C2 - 5208 / 11-05-2022
2	200 Amp, 11kV SB GOS(Polymeric Insulators)	C2 - 5209 / 11-05-2022
3	400 Amp, 11kV DB GOS(Ceramic Insulators)	C2 - 5210 / 11-05-2022
4	400 Amp, 11kV DB GOS(Polymeric Insulators)	C2 - 5211 / 11-05-2022
5	11kV 5 KN Polymeric Pin Insulator	C2 - 5212 / 11-05-2022
6	45KN Disc Insulator Polymeric	C2 - 5213 / 11-05-2022
7	1.1kV Pin Insulator Polymeric	C2 - 5214 / 11-05-2022
8	GI Pipe 40mm dia B class	C2 - 5215 / 11-05-2022
9	HG fuse Unit	C2 - 5216 / 11-05-2022
10	LT Protection Kit	C2 - 5217 / 11-05-2022
11	Lead Wire - 95 sqmm	C2 - 5218 / 11-05-2022
	Lead Wire - 120 sqmm	C2 - 5219 / 11-05-2022
	Lead Wire - 240 sqmm	C2 - 5220 / 11-05-2022
12	LT Distribution Box for 63/100kVA Transformer	C2 - 5221 / 11-05-2022
	LT Distribution Box for 250kVA Transformer	C2 - 5222 / 11-05-2022
13	Rabbit ACSR Conductor	C2 - 5223 / 11-05-2022

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal http//www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 25-05-2022. For clarification contact help desk **080-46010000/22631200/68948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/-
General Manager (Procurement),
Corporate Office, CESC, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/KAR/TA/100/2022-23

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Under Taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL.NRBC.Divn.No.6,
Chikkahonnakuni, Tq: Devadurga. Dist: Raichur-584 111. KARNATAKA.

No. KBJNL/NRBC/D-6/PB-2//TND/Call-2/2022-23/ 68 DATED: 16-05-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-2
(ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDER SYSTEM)

Ref: 1) T.O.Tender Notification No.149, Dated: 29-05-2019.
2) T.O.Tender Notification No.672, Dated: 12-10-2020.
3) T.O.Tender Notification No.727, Dated: 18-12-2021.
4) T.O.Tender Notification No.872, Dated: 05-02-2022.
5) T.O.Tender Notification No.1035, Dated: 19-03-2022.
6) T.O.Tender Notification No.1033, Dated: 19-03-2022.
7) T.O.Tender Notification No.1094, Dated: 30-03-2022.

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NRBC, Division No.6, Chikkahonnakuni Tq: Devadurga, Dist: Raichur was invited on percentage/turnkey basis for AWP works in Two/Single cover system from Registered Contractors of KPWD for works 2021-22 vide above references. After receipt of these tenders, there is technical problem arisen durin evaluation. Hence these tenders may be recalled in Call-2. (The blank tenders can be obtained through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and submitted through electronic tender box).

Total – 13 Nos. of Works having minimum Amount of **Rs. 29.31 Lakh to maximum Amount of Rs. 445.81 Lakh,** of Work Indent Nos: 1) 16318, 2) 18246, 3) 20411, 4) 20461, 5) 20478, 6) 21800, 7) 21809, 8) 21847, 9) 21848, 10) 21849, 11) 21851 (Two covers) & Work Indent Nos: 1) 20032, 2) 20033, (Single cover).

The details of events for the above works as per the notification is mentioned as below:-

1) The Contractors can have access to e-tendering documents from 19/05/2022 onwards. 2) Pre-Bid meeting / Clarification for Queries will be held in Division office on 21/05/2022 @ 11.00 AM. 3) Last Date of Receipt of the above Tenders will be 27/05/2022 up to 5.00 PM. 4) Technical Bid for Two covers & Financial Bid for Single cover will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Division No.6, Chikkahonakuni on 30/05/2022 @ 11.00 AM onwards. 5) Financial Bid for Two covers (only selected in Technical Bid) will be opened in the above office as soon as approval of Technical Bid.

For any clarification regarding the tenders please Contact htt://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or office of the under signed during office hours on working days.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, NRBC, Division No.6, CHIKKAHONNAKUNI-584111

DIP/Raichur/93/MC&A/2022-23

Narendra Modi to lead Yoga Day celebrations from Mysuru

The venue could be either Mysuru palace premises or racecourse ground

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the main event of the eighth International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations on June 21 from Mysuru.

This was stated by Mysuru MP Pratap Simha who shared the communique from the Ministry of Ayush confirming the development.

Internationally renowned as the 'go-to' place for learning yoga, the main event is set to be a huge brand building exercise and will further fortify Mysuru's reputation as a yoga hub.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participates in a yoga session on International Yoga Day in Dehradun on June 21, 2018.

75 iconic sites

As the upcoming eighth IDY also coincides with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav year, marking the 75th anniversary of Independence, the Ministry of Ayush has plans to observe yoga day at 75 iconic sites across the country and the focus will be on branding India on the global stage, according to the authorities.

Mysuru has historic links with yoga. The Wadiyars played a great role in patronising yoga as a result of which stalwarts like T. Krishnamacharya, Pattabhi Jois, B.N.S. Iyengar, B.K.S. Iyengar – who had initial training in Mysuru before shifting to Pune – have flourished and helped project 'Brand Mysuru' as a yoga destination. Today, the city has hundreds of registered and unregistered yoga schools, and is known to rival Rishikesh in Uttarakhand on matters related to yoga.

Mr. Simha said the venue is yet to be confirmed. The event will be held either at the Race Course ground or on the premises of the iconic Mysuru palace. "If it is the racecourse ground, the district administration will ensure mass participation to set a record. In case the choice for the main event is the palace, then the number will be curtailed, but people will perform yoga simultaneously at different venues," he added.

Mr. Simha had extended an invitation to Mr. Modi in April to lead the main event from Mysuru and had highlighted the importance of the city as a yoga hub.

"I am thankful to the PM for accepting my request. We will make all arrangements to ensure that the event is a spectacular success," he added.

Stakeholders and yoga institutions are buoyed by the development. Preparations were already underway since a month in anticipation of the Prime Minister's visit, but are expected to gather pace now.

No violation at disputed site: DC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Chikkamagaluru Deputy Commissioner K.N. Ramesh said there was no violation of court orders at Sri Guru Dattatreya Bababudan Swamy Dargah recently, as alleged by Bajrang Dal activists.

The video clip, being circulated on social media, was quite old and it did not show any activity in the disputed area, which could be termed as the violation of the court orders, he told presspersons on Saturday.

Recently, activists of the Bajrang Dal had alleged that sanctity of the shrine had been violated by some people, who cooked meat and offered namaz in the disputed site. Mr. Ramesh said preliminary inquiry revealed there was no violation of any kind. "The act shown in the video clip has happened outside the disputed area. Moreover, going by the painting of the structures shown in the video, one can conclude that the video clip is quite old," he said. He said that administration would verify if it was circulated to create unrest and disturb harmony.

CM, Cong. leaders return without meeting bigwigs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai as well as Congress leaders D.K. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, who had gone to Delhi to speak to top leaders of their respective parties in the hope of discussing Legislative Council and Rajya Sabha tickets, returned without meeting them.

With May 24 being the last date to file nominations for Council polls scheduled on June 3, all parties are expected to announce names of candidates on Monday.

Shah on phone

The Chief Minister, who returned from Delhi on Saturday, told reporters in the national capital earlier that he could not meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah due to his busy schedule but spoke to him over phone. He said that he has already given him the list of candidates for the MLC and Rajya Sabha elections.

On Mr. Shah's direction, Mr. Bommai met the BJP national general secretary and party's Karnataka in charge Arun Singh and had a detailed discussion with him. "We only discussed the Legislative Council and Rajya Sabha elections. The issue of Cabinet expansion did not come up. I have apprised him about the discussions held at the recent State core committee meeting. He said he would take the decision at the earliest," he said.

He asserted that the issue of Cabinet expansion could not be taken up as deliberations had to be focussed on elections to BBMP and local bodies in the backdrop of Supreme Court order.

Regarding the delay in carrying out the Cabinet expansion, he said it was the "internal matter" of the BJP. When he was reminded about his statement earlier this month that it would be done shortly, the Chief Minister said: "I did say that the cabinet expansion will take place in two to three days but in the meantime, the Supreme Court verdict on the BBMP elections has come."

"I went to Delhi for the discussion as May 24 is the last day for filing nominations for Legislative Council polls. Decisions have to be made urgently. Also, May 31 is the last day for filing nominations for Rajya Sabha elections," he said.

Congress discussion

Meanwhile, sources said Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Siddaramaah met Randeep Surjewala, Congress General Secretary in charge of Karnataka, and other leaders.

Mr. Siddaramaiah told reporters in Delhi that they did not meet AICC president Sonia Gandhi.

"We discussed in general about probable candidates for Council seats. About those who have been loyal to the party and who have worked towards strengthening the party," he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said although RS election was also discussed, the main focus was on Council tickets. Sources said both Mr. Siddaramaiah and the KPCC president have left Delhi. A final decision on the candidates is likely to be announced in a day.

Bommai for Davos

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is leaving for Davos on Sunday where he will represent Karnataka at the summit of the World Economic Forum.

Mr. Bommai said he will participate in the main sessions on environment and economy of the World Economic Forum meet on May 23 and May 24 and return to Bengaluru on May 26. "I will also meet around 18 multinational industrialists and businessmen from different countries at our Karnataka pavilion put up at the summit. I will meet them in the wake of Invest Karnataka being organised in November," he said.

He said he will be accompanied by Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani and senior officials.

JD(S) to reach out to disgruntled leaders

HDK expected to speak to some

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Amid moves by several disgruntled legislators to leave the party, the Janata Dal (Secular) has decided to reach out to convince them to stay back.

A few legislators have been tasked to open personal communication channels with the disgruntled legislators and attempt to address their issues. "The JD (S) Legislature Party meeting discussed the issue and gave responsibility to a few legislators to talk to those disgruntled legislators," a leader who attended the legislature party meeting said. Party leader H.D. Kumaraswamy is also expected to speak to a few legislators, sources said.

The JD(S) is expecting that several of its legislators would leave the party around the election time. Among them are K.M. Shivalinge Gowda, Srinivas Gowda, Gubbi Srinivas, and G.T. Deve Gowda. Party sources said that though some were planning to leave the party, not everyone may be accommodated to contest in other parties, and prevailing political situation would also dictate their decision.

Techie did not murder wife, but it was culpable homicide: HC

Court reduces sentence to 10 years rigorous imprisonment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a partial relief to a software engineer, who was convicted and sentenced to life for murdering his wife 10 years ago, the High Court of Karnataka has said that his act was "culpable homicide not amounting to murder" as it was a result of a fit of rage between the husband and the wife, who was also a software engineer.

While modifying the trial court's order of convicting him on the charges of murder under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the High Court sentenced him under Section 304 of IPC and sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years.

However, the High Court imposed an exemplary fine of ₹3 lakh on him as against ₹10,000 imposed by the trial court.

A Division Bench comprising Justice B. Veerappa and Justice S. Rachaiah passed the order while partly allowing an appeal filed by convict Siddharth Chowdary, a native of Haryana. He had challenged the 2017 verdict of the trial court in convicting him for the murder.

Issue of salary

Ruchi had succumbed to injuries from knife in November 2012 in the city following a quarrel with her husband over handing over her salary to him, which was a bone of contention between the couple for some time after their marriage in 2008.

The incident had occurred in the house in which Ruchi was living with her parents and sister, who were present in the house on the day of the incident. Siddharth, who was working in Delhi, had come on that day.

The High Court, from the oral and medical evidences, came to the conclusion that the 17 injuries inflicted on her body was a result of grappling during scuffle between the duo and not a pre-meditated attack.

The scuffle took place between the husband and the wife possibly for "ego reasons" as both of them were earning, the High Court said, while pointing out that there was no complaint between the couple since the marriage.

"...material on record clearly depicts that while scuffling, the convict lost self control and there by an unfortunate incident occurred. The incident occurred due to sudden provocation during quarrelling... and therefore the offence would not fall under Section 302 of the IPC," the bench observed.

Though there were 17 injuries, one of which turned fatal, the bench said that merely the number of wounds caused by the offender is not decisive as ultimately the incident had occurred due to sudden provocation during which the husband had picked up a knife during heated moment.

Bosch to hire over 1,000 persons in India this fiscal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Bosch, a Gerlingen-based multinational engineering and automotive technology firm, which completed 100 years of operation in India in 2022, is all set to open its largest smart campus, outside Germany, at Adugodi in Bengaluru.

"This campus we are building is of university campus style. This is not just the largest in India, but perhaps the largest campus of Bosch outside Germany," said Soumitra Bhattacharya, Managing Director, Bosch Ltd. and President, Bosch Group, India. Bosch has invested over ₹800 crore to build this university-campus style.

During fiscal 2022, Bosch intends to hire over 1,000 persons.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – ITEM WAR (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

IFB No: (National Competitive Bidding) | 17/ Hog Pkg.I to V / DO / CE / VLR / 2022 /Dated:19.05.2022.

Name of Work : Outsourcing of Operation and Maintenance of Hogenakkal Water supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project for **Package I to V** in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts for a period of 10 months **(From 01.06.2022 to 31.03.2023)**

Approx.value of work (Rs.in cr)	Rs.21.55 Crore
Bid security (Rs.in Lakhs)	Rs.16.20 Lakhs
Eligible class	Class - I
Tender invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Vellore – 632006.
Sale of Bid & place of sale : From **25.05.2022 to 14.06.2022** Bid document may be purchased by remitting cash or DD in favour of the Executive Engineer concerned for an amount of Rs.1180/- from O/o the Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Project Maintenance Division, Hogenakkal Project House Campus, A.Jettihalli (P.O), Dharmapuri – 636807. If bid document is required by post an amount of Rs.500/- to be paid additionally.	
web site down loading at free of cost	**www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.twadboard.tn.gov.in.**
1. Date and time of Pre bid meeting	**02.06.2022** at 11.00 am at CE's chamber, TWAD Board, Vellore.
2. Last date and time of downloading bid document	**14.06.2022 up to 5.45 PM**
3. Last date and time for receipt of bid document	**15.06.2022 up to 3.00 PM**
4. Date and time for opening of Technical bid	**15.06.2022 at 3.30 PM**

DPR / 3435 / TENDER / 2022 — SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

Chief Engineer
TWAD Board, Vellore

Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura.

Short Term Tender Notification: 03/2022-23
Dated: 19.05.2022 (2nd Call)

Ref: EE/KNNL/DRP/DN/SKP/PB/TN-11/2021-22 Date: 24-12-2021
EE/KNNL/DRP/DN/SKP/PB/TN-18/2021-22 Date: 24-02-2022

(Single Cover Document & Only in e-procurement)

On behalf of Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Dandavati Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura invites tenders in Single Cover Document system through e-procurement portal from the contractors registered in KPWD Class IV and above, (For Sl. No. 3 SC Category Contractors and for Sl. No. 4 ST Category Contractors are only to be participated).

The amount put to tender for 04 various developmental works in the limits of Shikaripura and Soraba Taluks is **Rs 49.72** lakhs to Rs 19.95 lakhs and EMD amount is **Rs 0.50 lakhs** to **Rs 0.25 lakhs**.

(1) Date for participating in the tender: From **20.05.2022 to 27.05.2022 upto 5.00 P M.**

(2) The last date for tender clarifications : **26.05.2022 at 5.00 P M.**

(3) Date of opening of Financial Bid : **30.05.2022 at 11.00 A M.**

For more details visit **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
KNNL, DRP Division Shikaripura

DIPR/SMG/No.113/ZDNKAR/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: (i) Sri. Nikhil Sharma S/o late Ashok Sharma, (ii) Sri. Lalit M Sharma S/o late C.M.M. Sharma, (iii) Sri. Nilesh Sharma S/o Sri. Lalit M Sharma and (iv) Sri. Gaurav Sharma S/o Sri. Lalit M Sharma.

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Municipal No.13/13** and 13/15, measuring **East to West 55 ft** and **North to South 118 ½ ft**, in all measuring 6517.5 Sq.ft, together with a building thereon, situated at Pampa Mahakavi Road, Shankarpuram, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Property belonging to Sri. C. Mohanlal
West by : Property belonging to Sri. K. Sampathraj Jain and Smt. Indira Jain
North by : Private Road leading to Pampa Mahakavi Road
South by : Property belonging to Sri. Yadalam .R.L. Shetty

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM

IFB No.	13 /F.G& M of CWSS / DO(TS)/ CE/ CBE/ 2022/ Dt. 20.05.2022
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.30, Sravani Nagar, Bharathi park Road, Coimbatore- 641043.
Sale of Bid	**25.05.2022 to 14.06.2022 up to 5.45 pm**
Downloading	**www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.twadboard.tn.gov.in.** (free of cost)
Cost of Tender Document	Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Maintenance Division, Sagadavapuram, Salem- 636007 by cash or Demand Draft on any Scheduled/ Nationalized bank payable at Salem for Rs.1080/- + GST and additional Rs. 500/- by Post
EMD Payable at	Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Maintenance Division, Salem
Pre Bid meeting	**06.06.2022** at **11.00 AM** at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**15.06.2022** before **3.00 PM**
Bid opening	**15.06.2022** at **3.30 PM** at the office of the Tender Invitee.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Crore)	Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs)
	Operation and Maintenance of following CWSS for a period of 9 Months (01.07.2022 to 31.03.2023)		
1.	CWSS to Attur, Narasingapuram Municipalities, 28 TPs and 1345 Rural Habitations in 12 Unions of Salem District.	0.84	8.34

DPR / 2434 / TENDER / 2022 — SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Coimbatore.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BBMP Commercial Complex, 2nd Floor, Lashkar Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bengaluru - 560030.

No: EE/(BTM)/Ae/e-proc/03/2022-23 Date: 18.05.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) 1st Call
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on Item Rate basis are invites by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BBMP or Any Reputed Agencies, Equivalent Registration with / CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Appro. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Providing partition work supplying furniture to primary Health Centre Fixing Open Gym Equipments to Library Building in Jakkasandra **Ward No. 173**	60.00	1,20,000/-
Period of Completion (in days): 180 Days			

Calendar of Event: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-procurement portal **https//:eproc.karnataka.gov.in (2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **31.05.2022** at **3.00 p.m. (3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is: **04.06.2022** upto **4.00 p.m. (4)** Date of Opening of the tender document on: **06.06.2022** at **4.30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BBMP

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS, ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)

No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement)/EE/AEE/2022-23/9846-50 Date: 21.05.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

Manufacture and supply of following materials as per GESCOM specification. **PC-1175 (call-2):** Type-II uninhabited Transformer Oil. **PC-1186 :** Aerial Bunched Cable and accessories. Dates: Bid documents available at e-procurement: on or after **23.05.2022,** Last Date: **31.05.2022.** Opening of Technical/Price bid : **02.06.2022 / 03.06.2022.** Tender amount : Minimum **Rs. 263.10 Lakhs. Maximum: Rs. 567.79 Lakhs** Bidder Qualifying Requirement: As per tender documents (IFB): For additional information Contact: Executive Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585 102. Mobile: 9448359006. Web Site Address: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement), GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/178/MC&A/2022-23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

7th ANNIVERSARY

Mrs.DAMAYANTI RAJADURAI
Retired Professor
V.V.V College for Women,Virudhunagar
Expired on 22.05.2015
Fondly Remembered by:
Dr.R.Arunmozhimaran M.S.Ortho
& Family

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

VILVANTHAN V K, Head Clerk, SBI LHO Chennai, fondly remembered on his 2nd death anniversary today by family members

REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory

Krishnamoorthy Chandra
A gentle soul, warm and magnetic personality.
Left us too soon on
22 May 2021.
You are in our hearts forever - Loving family

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

"No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted"

Kainkarya Siromani
S.V.Narasimhan
21st Anniversary Homage

SVN Family,
Management & Staff of Hauer - Diana Group

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In loving memory of
Mrs Geetha Venkataraman
(W/o Late Sri. C.H.Venkataraman)
19 Dec 1950 to 22 May 2021
Some memories never fade. Miss you everyday amma.
Shobha, Shubha, Balaji

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

T.K. DURAISWAMI
22.05.1919 - 10.07.2012
PRATHAMA ACHARYA PURUSHA
Retired Senior Accounts Officer, A.G's Office
Fondly remembered by :
Smt.Vijaya & Sri.N.S. Mohanram
Smt.Vatsala & Sri.V A Raghu
Sri.T.K. Balaji & Smt.Sheela Balaji
Smt.Mala & Sri.S. Ramakrishnan
Brothers, Sister, Grand Children & Great Grand Children

IN BRIEF

Court denies anticipatory bail to P.C. George

KOCHI

A Sessions Court in Kochi on Saturday dismissed the anticipatory bail plea filed by former legislator and Kerala Janapaksham (Secular) leader P.C. George in connection with a case regarding a hate speech he made at a temple festival at Vennila here on May 10. Hours after the court dismissed his anticipatory bail plea, police raided his residence at Poonjar.

Kerala sounds general alert against monkeypox

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Even as no case of monkeypox, which shows up as fever, body ache and very distinct skin lesions, has yet been reported in the country, the Kerala Health department has sounded a general alert on the disease.

4 held day after man killed by wife's kin

Protests, rallies held demanding justice for the victim's family at Begum Bazaar in Hyderabad

ABHINAY DESHPANDE
HYDERABAD

Day after a 22-year-old trader, Neeraj Panwar, was hacked to death allegedly by his wife's relatives at Begum Bazaar here in full public view, the Hyderabad police on Saturday nabbed four of the attackers from Karnataka after a night-long chase.

Meanwhile, Begum Bazaar in the heart of Hyderabad, which usually bustles with business, reverberated with slogans on Saturday morning. Shops were shut, while protests and rallies were held demanding justice for Neeraj's family.

Four of the accused – B. Rohit Yadav, 18, K. Vijay Yadav, 22, K. Sanjay Yadav, 25 and a minor boy – were picked up near Gurumitkal in Yadgir district of Karnataka.

On Friday evening, these four, along with Abhinandan Yadav and Mahesh Yadav and another minor, killed Neeraj for marrying Sanjana against the wishes of her family members. Abhinandan, Sanjay and Vijay are Sanjana's cousins.

Rage over murder: People staging a protest in Hyderabad as a relative is consoling Neeraj's wife Sanjana. • NAGARA GOPAL

Soon after the attack, the accused, according to a plan, went to Pargi in Vikarabad district on their two-wheelers, and, after abandoning the vehicles there, they boarded bus, sought lift and reached an isolated place near Gurumitkal. "They took shelter for a few hours before getting nabbed by our team," a senior officer associated with the investigation of the case told *The Hindu*.

However, the police managed to nab only Rohit, Vijay, Sanjay, and the minor boy, while Abhinandan, Mahesh and another minor boy are still at large.

"At least 10 persons planned the attack, while six were on the ground, others were guiding them," the officer said. Of the six, one belongs to another community, and he was their friend. "I guess he was not aware of the full plan. After seeing them attacking Neeraj, he panicked and started to run here and there. It is clearly visible in the CCTV camera footage," the officer added.

The arrested were being interrogated at the Mangalhat police station on the planning and who all were involved, where and when they purchased the weapons, and how long they were tracking Neeraj, a resident of Kolsawadi whose family runs a wholesale groundnut business at Feelkhana.

Announcing the arrests on Saturday evening, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West Zone) D. Joel Davis said: "since their marriage, the couple had been staying in a rented house at Shamsheergunj to avoid conflict with her family members, who also live in Kolsawadi."

Recently, Neeraj started going to the shop to help his father, and his frequent movements in the area had provoked the family members of Sanjana, he said. "As Sanjana got married to Neeraj against their wishes, the family felt humiliated. They also got provoked by Neeraj's presence in the area. So, they hatched a conspiracy to eliminate him," he said.

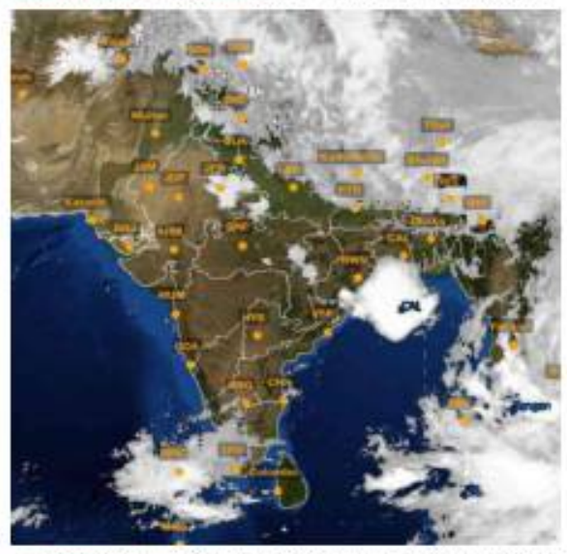
"For the last three days they had been actively pursuing Neeraj. They conducted a recce of the area and on Friday evening Sanjay followed Neeraj, and alerted others," Mr. Davis said. The victim was travelling on a bike with his grandfather as pillion rider.

When they reached Feelkhana, the accused intercepted them, and Sanjay attacked them with a boulder. Later they hacked Neeraj to death with sickles, the DCP said.

The couple has a three-month-old boy.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Bihar, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	32	28.8	20.7	Kozhikode	95	29.4	24.2
Ahmedabad	–	42.1	27.7	Kurnool	–	32.4	23.5
Aizawl	20	28.5	18.1	Lucknow	3	41.0	25.4
Allahabad	–	43.7	29.6	Madurai	–	37.5	25.4
Bengaluru	3.7	26.7	18.8	Mangaluru	29.2	30.8	22.0
Bhopal	–	41.8	29.6	Mumbai	–	34.4	28.5
Bhubaneswar	–	37.6	27.2	Mysuru	–	30.2	20.0
Chandigarh	–	40.7	28.6	New Delhi	0.8	42.4	29.8
Chennai	2	37.2	26.3	Patna	–	36.0	25.2
Coimbatore	0.2	32.7	23.2	Port Blair	1	30.7	26.7
Dehradun	6	36.6	22.0	Puducherry	–	34.6	26.4
Gangtok	0.4	18.4	14.0	Pune	–	35.4	24.7
Goa	10	29.0	22.5	Raipur	1	43.3	28.7
Guwahati	14	28.6	22.6	Ranchi	–	39.4	27.7
Hubballi	–	26.0	19.0	Shillong	8	23.2	15.1
Hyderabad	–	34.0	24.0	Shimla	3	31.5	16.4
Imphal	–	26.6	20.4	Srinagar	–	19.8	10.9
Jaipur	–	40.5	32.7	Thiruvananthapuram	0.8	31.8	25.2
Kochi	68	31.0	23.8	Tiruchi	1	37.1	26.5
Kohima	–	23.5	15.2	Vijayawada	–	40.5	25.6
Kolkata	–	36.4	29.3	Visakhapatnam	–	33.5	29.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO2	NO2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	12	92	172	126	
Bengaluru	18	39	45	68	75	
Chennai	4	31	77	41	90	
Delhi	14	106	74	207	386	
Hyderabad	8	34	–	63	95	
Kolkata	6	89	21	35	54	
Lucknow	6	74	58	202	167	
Mumbai	2	13	41	289	132	
Pune	–	22	52	199	123	
Visakhapatnam	16	26	12	49	88	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dharuhera, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 385 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Guwahati, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Film on vanishing bees set to create a buzz

Documentary uncovers human-inflicted actions accelerating an insect apocalypse

K.C. DEEPIKA
BENGALURU

You spot a beehive in your building. What do you do? Chances are, you've called in help to clear it out. Ever wondered how and why they got there, and where they go from there?

Colonies in Conflict, a feature length documentary that uncovers human inflicted actions accelerating an insect apocalypse, is presented by the National Centre for Biological Sciences. The documentary, filmed over two years, is touted to be the first time that *Apis dorsata*, migratory giant Asian honeybees, have been filmed across various landscapes.

The maker of the film, Rajani Mani, says she was always close to nature in her nomadic childhood. Calling herself a conservation filmmaker, she speaks of her interest in the intersection of humankind and wildlife that triggered the project.

With the film, the filmmaker hopes to open the world of bees to the people.

" Very often, you lose sight of the human element [while] looking at wildlife work. Everything that humans do affects the wild around us. Enough has not been said about bees. Insects have been ignored for far too long. They are pollinators, they are essential. They are creating forest systems and food chains," she said, speaking to *The Hindu* ahead of the film's world premier on May 22 at the Bangalore International Centre.

The new sensational news we heard, she said, was about bee boxes dying in hectares of American monoculture. "It's bee farming for pollination. Scientists have said 75% of insect biomass has disappeared in 40 years. It qualifies as an insect apocalypse. India has a lot of pollinators, but we don't keep count. We don't even know how many species there are. There's no agenda to do this from a higher level. Honey production is not the primary job of a bee. Pollination is. So new farmers have very little knowledge of pollination," she said.

Bee's perspective

"This is not a film from a honey hunter's perspective. Rather, it's from the perspective of the bees and the people," Ms. Mani says.

Though the pandemic affected filming, she started finding out more about bees during the period.

Through the film, she hopes to open the world of bees to people. "We have a rudimentary lesson on pollination, but not on insects. This is opening a window into the unknown yet beautiful fascinating world of bees," she signed off.

Actor case: police records bishop's statement

Denies any role in Dileep getting bail

STAFF REPORTER
KOTTAYAM

The Crime Branch team probing the alleged conspiracy by actor Dileep and his aides to endanger the police officers probing the high-profile 2017 actor abduction and rape case has recorded the statement of Neyyattinkara Bishop Vincent Samuel in this connection.

- Official sources said the bishop appeared before the CB sleuths at a location near Kalathippady on Saturday and gave his statement.

Official sources said the bishop appeared before the CB sleuths at a location near Kalathippady on Saturday and gave his statement.

According to them, the bishop said he had known Balachandrakumar, a key witness in the case, personally but denied any role in the actor Dileep getting the bail. The bishop's statement was collected against the backdrop of an allegation raised by Balachandrakumar that the bishop had been instrumental in the actor getting an anticipatory bail in the case on the sexual assault of a woman actor.

The investigation team had earlier recorded the bishop's statement in connection with the actor assault case.

Yellow alert for eight districts in Kerala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala is likely to receive isolated heavy rainfall on Sunday triggered by a cyclonic circulation.

The cyclonic circulation lies over Rayalaseema and neighbourhood in lower and middle tropospheric levels.

A yellow alert has been sounded in eight districts – Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Malappuram, Kozhikode, and Kannur – on Sunday, warning of isolated heavy rainfall.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that our client intends to purchase the immoveable properties from its present owners (1) B.S. Chandrashekar aged about 77years son of late Sannanaiappa and (2) Mrs B.C. REKHA, aged about 48 years w/o Prakash Savankar who declare that they are absolute owners and are in continuous possession of the properties more fully set out in the Item 1 and 2 of Schedule given below. Any person/s whomsoever having any valid right, title and interest or charge/ claim in the SCHEDULE PROPERTIES or any part thereof, shall write to Undersigned within 21 days from the date of this notice along with the documentary Proof of such ownership or claim on the SCHEDULE PROPERTIES **within the stipulated time**, failing which it shall be deemed by our Client and his nominees that Schedule Properties is free of all encumbrances, charges, claims, interest of whatsoever of any nature and our client shall proceed to purchase the SCHEDULE PROPERTIES from the aforesaid owners and complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

ITEM 1(B.S. CHANDRASHEKAR PROPERTY): All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural Land bearing Survey number 134/3 measuring 4 Acres & 06 Gunta, situated at Sonnenahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and being bounded on;

East by : Block No.2, Survey No. 134/3
West by : Block No.2, and Sy.No.115,
North by : Block No.2, Survey No. 134/3 &
South by : Block No.2 and Sy.No.115,

ITEM 2 (B.C. REKHA PROPERTY): All that piece and parcel of vacant site presently bearing E-Khata No. 150200202301120004, New Property No. 46/126/A (earlier bearing Gramathana Khaneshumari No.126) situated at Sonnenahalli, Dhakale, Palya Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, presently Kariapura Palya Village, within the limits of Sonnenahalli Village Panchayath, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring East to West –27.43 meters & North to South – 36.57 meters totally measuring 1003.35 square meter and bounded on;

East by : Remaining extent of Site No. 126
West by : Private Property
North by : Private Property
South by : Road.

Sd/- **K.M. ANURADHA**, Advocate
VSB Law Associates
312, 3rd Floor, Prestige Meridian II,
M.G Road, Bangaluru - 560 001.
Date: 20-05-2022

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (C.V. Raman Nagara Division),
8th Cross, 12th A Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru-560038.
No: EE/CVR/e-Proc/QTN/01/2022-23 Dated: 21.05.2022

SHORT TERM QUOTATION NOTIFICATION FOR RATES

The quotation are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Zonal Commissioner BBMP from the reputed agencies / Suppliers / Distributors / Contractor for the work of **Supply, Casting, erection and fixing of statues in C V Ramannagara division BBMP Premises.** The interested supplier/agencies are requested to submit/upload their quotation **through e-Procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on before **30.05.2022** at **5:00** pm as detail in the table indicated below, the quotation shall be opened on **31.05.2022** at **5:30** pm.

Sl.	Particulars	Unit	Qty
1.	Supply, Casting, erection and fixing KITTURU RANI CHENNAMMA in Horse riding posture of height 9'0" height Bronze statue on 2' 0" Bronze pedestal over 4' 0" stone pedestal on suitable foundation. The thickness of Bronze 6 to 8mm and the total weight of statue will be 800 Kgs, the rate including all labours, Artists, moulds, suitable foundation cost & materials with all lead and lift and to get an approval of concerned official before moulding and after moulding and as directed by the Engineer in charge of the work.	Each	1.00
2.	Supply, Casting, erection and fixing SRI. JAYACHAMARAJENDRA ODEYAR in standing posture of height 12' 0" height Bronze statue on 2' 0" Bronze pedestal over 4' 0" stone pedestal on suitable foundation. The thickness of Bronze 6 to 8mm and the total weight of statue will be 1400 Kgs, the rate including all labours, Artists, moulds, suitable foundation cost & materials with all lead and lift and to get an approval of concerned official before moulding and after moulding and as directed by the Engineer in charge of the work.	Each	1.00
3.	Supply, Casting, erection and fixing DR.B.R.AMBEDKAR in standing posture of height 12'0" height Bronze statue on 2' 0" Bronze pedestal over 4' 0" stone pedestal on suitable foundation. The thickness of Bronze 6 to 8mm and the total weight of statue will be 1400 Kgs, the rate including all labours, Artists, moulds, suitable foundation cost & materials with all lead and lift and to get an approval of concerned official before moulding and after moulding and as directed by the Engineer in charge of the work.	Each	1.00
4.	Design supplying erection of structural steel support complete including preparation of membrane shop drawing of PVC tensioned membrane roof structure consisting of flying mesh out of IS mark including fixtures Galvanized cable as per Indian standard the tensile membrane made from Germany make mahler valmex FR 900 - type -II with 100% white colour PVDF lacquer on both side protected against micro ball and fungal attack UV protected with weight of 900 Grams per Sqm with 25 Years warranty with primer 2 coats of epoxy painting with necessary fixtures transportaion site supervision and commissioning of tensioned membrane structure all inclusive of all taxes.	Sqm	1.00
5.	Supply & fixing Supreme Bench Made out of Sadarahally Grey Stone with two stands with strong base with back slab (Supports) with machine cutting top slab mirror polish with 300mm seating slab with 4 line finishing.	Each	1.00

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1) The agency shall quote the rate as per the specification and drawing prescribed.
2) The rate quoted shall be inclusive of all materials, labour, fabrication, transportation etc...., excluding GST
3) The quotations are invited for the purpose of budgetary offer for adopting rates in the estimate.
4) The agencies do not have any claim for entrustment of work.
5) Any other information shall be had from the office of the under signed during office hours or **Contact No.9480688268**
6) BBMP reserves right to accept or reject the quotation part or all without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- Executive Engineer- CV Raman Nagara Division

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CC Complex, Tank Bund Road, Lower tank Bund, Hyderabad-500063, Telangana
File No.1103/HO/GHMC/2022/514 Dated.21/05/2002

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation is interested in developing the following Heritage Property through PPP mode. **S.No.:** 1, **Name of Heritage Building:** Sardar Mahal, **Location:** Near Charminar, **Proposed Activity:** Conserving and Developing Sardar Mahal as Cultural Centre. The RFP documents can be downloaded from website https://www.ghmc.gov.in and www.tenders.telangana.gov.in from 23.05.2022 and the **last date to submit bid is 10.06.2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.** The bidders are requested to submit the tender fee and bid security amount only online through e-payment.

Sd/- COMMISSIONER
GHMC
DIPR No.2099-PR/CL/ADVT/13022-23, Dt:21.05.2022

Indian Bank (इंडियन बैंक) — इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD
Zonal Office, 4th Floor, East Wing
Raheja Towers, No.26, 27 M G Road
BANGALORE – 560 001
Phone : 080-22958904

Notice Inviting Offers

Indian Bank, Zonal office, Bengaluru invites sealed offers from owners willing to offer office premises on lease basis measuring carpet area about 1400 Sq.ft preferably on ground floor for their following branches : 1. Malleswaram 18th cross branch
2. Sahakar Nagar branch, both with On-site ATM. For eligibility Criteria, application form and other details, please refer website http://www.indianbank.in/tender.php
Last date - 06.06.2022.

Sd/- ZONAL MANAGER

DEPARTMENT OF SERICULTURE
Office of the Commissioner for Sericulture Development & Director of Sericulture
5th Floor, M.S. Building, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001. Phone: 080 - 22252611.
E-mail: teamseriplan@gmail.com Website: reshmesiri.kar.nic.in
No.: DOS/e-Pro/Req/RC/07/2021-22 Date: 20.05.2022

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ENTERING INTO RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF SERICULTURE FARM MACHINERIES, REARING EQUIPMENTS AND POST COCOON EQUIPMENTS

Commissioner for Sericulture Development & Director of Sericulture, Department of Sericulture, Bengaluru invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for entering into rate contract for supply of Sericulture Farm Machineries, Rearing Equipment's and Post Cocoon to the beneficiaries under Central Sponsored and State own sericulture scheme for one year, through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this EOI shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e procurement portal.
(1) EOI Reference No and date: No. DOS/e-Pro/Req/RC /07/2021-22 **Date: 20.05.2022. (2)** Date of uploading of EOI: **Date: 20.05.2022 (3)** Pre Bid Meeting Date, Place and Time: **Date: 26.05.2022** at **11.30 a.m. (4)** Last date & Time for submission of EOI: **Date: 04.06.2022** at **05.00 p.m. (5)** Date & Time of opening of Technical bid: **Date: 06.06.2022** at **11.30 a.m. (6)** Tentative Date & Time of opening of Commercial bid: **Date: 10.06.2022** at **11.30 a.m. (7)** EMD Amount: **As per EOI Notification. (8)** Venue of pre-bid meeting, opening of EOIs & address for Commission: Office of the Commissioner for Sericulture Development & Director of Sericulture, Directorate of Sericulture, Room No. 516, 5th Floor, M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001. Phone: 080-2225261, **E-mail: karseri@yahoo.co.in**
Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this invitation of EOI can down load the bid documents with visiting the website **https://e.proc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Additional Director of Sericulture (Tech)
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/DDU/AAA/612/2022-23

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522503

ENGAGEMENT OF MEDICAL PHYSICIST (RSO Certified) ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE, AIIMS, MANGALAGIRI For a Period Of 11 (Eleven) Months

AIIMS Mangalagiri invites applications from eligible candidates for MEDICAL PHYSICIST (RSO Certified) ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE. Date of Walk-in-interview will be on **10th June, 2022.** For more details with regard to the application procedure, please visit website www.aiimsmangalagiri.edu.in

Director & CEO
AIIMS, Mangalagiri

COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF TREASURIES
5th & 6th Floor, KPCL Green Building, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560001. Ph: 080-22028210, Fax: 080-22028209
No. COT/PROC/07/2022-23 Date: 18.05.2022

RFP for procurement of DR Storage Augmentation

Department of Treasuries invites tender for **"RFP for procurement of DR Storage Augmentation".**
Tender details are available at the e-Procurement platform & tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/DD-C.P/592/MCA/2022-23

IDBI BANK
CIN:L65190MH2004GOI148838
IDBI Bank Ltd., NPA Management Group, E-1, First Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Extn. New Delhi 110055, Phone: 011-66083008,66083108

APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of IDBI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 25.11.2021, similarly the authorized officer of Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank issued the demand Notices under Section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 13.02.2015 and 11.12.2015 respectively, calling upon the borrower **M/s Great Indian Nautanki Company Pvt. Ltd. and its Directors/Guarantors i.e. Mr. Anumod Sharma, Dr. Anu Appaiah, Mr. Viraf Sarkari, Shri Sanjay Chaudhary, M/s Great Indian Tamasha Company Pvt Ltd, M/s SG Investments Pvt Ltd and M/s Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt Ltd** to repay the amount mentioned in the notices being **Rs. 86,48,33,175.87** (Rs. Eighty six crore forty eight lakh thirty three thousand one hundred seventy five and eighty seven paisa only) to IDBI Bank Ltd, **Rs. 6,26,68,605.24** (Rs. Six crore twenty six lakh sixty eight thousand six hundred five and twenty four paisa only) to HDFC Bank and **Rs. 49,23,12,268.08** (Rs. Fourty nine crore twenty three lakhs twelve thousand two hundred sixty eight and eight paisa only) to Bank of Baroda within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below, in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **20th day of May of the year 2022** for and on behalf of the member banks.
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of :

Sr. No	Bank	Amount Due	As on date
1.	IDBI	Rs. 92,69,29,017.87	01.05.2022
2.	HDFC	Rs. 6,26,68,605.24	30.11.2015
3.	BOB	Rs. 41,30,83,614.75	18.05.2022
Total		Rs. 140,26,81,237.86	

Together with Interest thereon, incidental charges, cost, expenses etc.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Survey No. 7/5 measuring 5 acres, Survey No. 7/3 measuring 8.80 acres, Survey No. 7/4 measuring 10 acres, Survey No. 4 measuring 1.30 acres, Survey No. 6 measuring 4.52 acres, Survey No. 7/1 measuring 67.62 acres and Survey No. 7/2 measuring 10 acres totalling measuring 107.24 acres situated at Village Peroor, Madikeri Taluk, District Kodagu under Ballamvati Mandal Panchyat in the state of Karnataka surrounded from the four sides as under: On the North by: Road and Land with Survey No. 9 & 18. On the South by: Stream On the East by : Land with Survey No. 37/11, On the West by : Government Land, together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.

Date : 20.05.2022
Place : Madikeri
Sd/- Authorised Officer
IDBI Bank Limited

FROM PAGE ONE

Centre slashes fuel taxes, sets ₹200 subsidy

"The fiscal cost can be absorbed by higher than budgeted revenues through other taxes. We now estimate the tax revenues of the central government to surpass the budget estimates by at least ₹1.3 lakh crore even after the excise reduction," she added.

Customs duties on raw materials and intermediaries for plastic products where import dependence is high, is also being cut to help reduce final product prices and assist micro, small and medium enterprises.

To arrest steel prices, the government is reducing the import duty on some raw materials and levying an export duty on some steel products. Measures are also being taken to improve cement supplies and spruce up logistics to reduce cement costs.

K.E. Raghunathan, convenor of the Consortium of Indian Associations, appreciated the Centre's move and said States like Tamil Nadu should also follow suit by reducing their levies on petroleum products. "What is important is to aid and support middle- and lower-income groups," he said.

Setting the context for the current inflationary pressures, Ms. Sitharaman said the world is passing through difficult times with the Ukraine conflict triggering supply chain challenges and shortages of various goods.

"This is resulting in inflation & economic distress in a lot of countries... Despite the challenging situation, we've ensured that there are no shortages/scarcity of essential goods. Even a few developed countries couldn't escape some shortages/disruptions. We are committed to ensure that prices are kept under control," the minister asserted.

(With PTI inputs)

Govt. wants to keep LOC details under wraps

There are various gradations of response when a person is stopped. However, a 2010 office memorandum gives the authorities power to generate LOCs in "exceptional cases" without complete parameters or case details against "suspects, terrorists, anti-national elements, etc, in larger national interest." In 2015, Greenpeace activist Priya Pillai was stopped from travelling to London on a request by the Intelligence Bureau based on the "etc" provision in the 2010 order. The LOC was later quashed by the Delhi High Court.

On April 5, the Punjab and Haryana High Court quashed an LOC by Bank of India against a woman identified as Noor Paul, 30, who was stopped at the Delhi airport on February 22 on her way to Dubai. The court held that the action of Bank of India to issue an LOC against her, who was a guarantor to a loan procured by her father, was "arbitrary, illegal and violative of Article 21 of the Constitution."

Coming down heavily on the respondents that included the MHA, Bank of India and the Bureau of Immigration, the court said the MHA and BOI should serve a copy of the LOC and state the reasons to the person against whom it was issued "as soon as possible" and provide a "post-decisional opportunity."

It asked the MHA to include these directions into the "Official Memorandum" or the guidelines that govern the opening of LOCs.

Asserting that "LOCs cannot be shown to the subject" at the time of detention nor any prior intimation can be provided, the MHA moved the Supreme Court against the said order.

Satya Pal Jain, Additional Solicitor General of India in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, told *The Hindu* that the particular part of the judgement where the court asked to read the instructions into the official memorandum had been stayed by the Supreme Court.

"The Government of India moved the Supreme Court against the said observations and the honourable court stayed the particular paragraph of the judgement where it asked to provide a copy of the LOC, the reasons and a hearing to the affected person. This provision can be used by hardened criminals to bypass the system and escape the country," Mr. Jain said.

LOCs can be modified; deleted or withdrawn only at the request of the originator and immigration is only the executing authority.

As per norms, an LOC will stay valid for a maximum period of 12 months and if there is no fresh request from the agency, then it will not be automatically revived.

However there have been cases when LOCs have been revived in a bureaucratic process.

Floods claim 25 lives in northeast

A stretch of more than 2 km near the bridge was affected due to "incessant rainfall and movement of cattle and heavy vehicles", the report said.

The Bogibeel Bridge is considered strategic for communication between areas on the northern and southern banks of the Brahmaputra in eastern Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

The report said at least 20 dykes have been breached across Assam and several bridges have either been washed away or damaged. Several roads have caved in or rendered unusable for vehicles while 43,090 houses have been fully or partially damaged across 2,251 flooded villages.

Labour party wins Australia polls

Labour has promised more financial assistance and a robust social safety net as Australia grapples with the highest inflation since 2001 and soaring housing prices.

The party also plans to increase minimal wages, and on the foreign policy front, it proposed to establish a Pacific defence school to train neighbouring armies in response to China's potential military presence on the Solomon Islands at Australia's doorstep. Mr. Morrison's Liberal party-led coalition was seeking a fourth three-year term. It held the narrowest of majorities – 76 seats in the 151-member House of Representatives, where parties need a majority to form a government. In early counting on Saturday, the coalition was on track to win 51 seats, Labour 72, 10 were unaligned lawmakers and 18 were too close to call.

J&K tunnel collapse toll hits 10

Five of the deceased are from West Bengal; bodies have been shifted to hospital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The bodies of all 10 people trapped in an under-construction tunnel at Ramban in Jammu and Kashmir have been recovered. The rescue operation is complete, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam said on Saturday

Five of the deceased were from West Bengal. An FIR has been registered for negligence, Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Mohita Sharma said.

"We're in touch with the West Bengal administration," Mr. Islam, camping at the accident site, said.

He said that all the bodies were shifted to hospital. Families have been informed.

The rescue operation, which was halted on Friday night due to shooting stones and landslips, was resumed around 6 a.m. on Saturday.

Rescue operation under way on the second consecutive day following the collapse of an under-construction tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway. •PTI

Three persons have been rescued from the accident so far. On Thursday night, a National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) spokesman said a landslip occurred and covered the mouth of an adit tunnel to Tunnel-4 under which a labour team was working. The NHAI clarified that no portion of the tunnel has caved in.

Meanwhile, the traffic on the National Highway resumed on Saturday.

Delhi court convicts Om Prakash Chautala

Ex-CM held guilty under Prevention of Corruption Act

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Special CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) court in Delhi on Saturday convicted former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala in a disproportionate assets (DA) case.

Special judge Vikas Dhull on Saturday convicted the 87-year-old politician more than 16 years after the Central Bureau of Investigation booked him in the case.

Om Prakash Chautala

Special Public Prosecutor Ajay Gupta, who appeared for the agency in the case, said that the court had held Chautala guilty under Sections-13(1)(e) and 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act and that the matter had now been posted for arguments on the quantum of sentencing for May 26.

The CBI said that it had registered the case against Chautala and others in April 2006, on allegations that during his time as the CM of Haryana (between July 24, 1999 and March 5, 2005), he had colluded with his family members and others to accumulate assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, in his name and in the names of his family members and others.

The probe agency had filed a chargesheet in the case on March 26, 2010, alleging that the extent of disproportionate assets stood at over ₹6.09 crore (189.11%) of his income.

Following this, final arguments in the case were conducted in April this year, after which the court delivered its verdict on Saturday.

CBI files FIR in Bengal recruitment scam

It says the officials gave fake recommendation letters bypassing chain of order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a fresh FIR against five officials of the West Bengal Education Department in connection with the appointment of "undeserving and unlisted candidates" as Group-C staff in various schools.

The FIR follows the directions of a Division Bench and a single Bench of the Calcutta High Court after the court took note of the irregularities in the recruitment process.

Charges have been pressed under Section 120 (criminal conspiracy), 417 (cheating), 465 (forgery) and 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Strong resolve: The police engaging members of Opposition parties during a protest march in Kolkata. •PTI

The officials named in the FIR are Santi Prasad Sinha, the then convener of the five-member committee as well as the then adviser of the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC); Samarjit Acharya, the then programmer at the commission; Saumitra Sarkar, the then chairman of the commission; Ashok Kumar Saha, the then Secretary of the commission; and Kalyanmoy Ganguly, the then president of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education.

The FIR states that the accused "collected the vacancies of Group-C in an unauthorised manner after the expiry of the panel on 18.05.2019 in violation of provisions of School Service Commission Rules, 2009, and then issued recommendations of unsuccessful candidates to those vacancies by issuing fictitious memos of the regional commissions and by using scanned signatures of the chairpersons of the regional commissions in the absence of their knowledge".

"Santi Prasad Sinha handed over fake recommendation letters to Kalyanmoy Ganguly after the expiry of the panel. Kalyanmoy Ganguly gave instruction to Mr. Rajesh Layek, the Technical Officer of the Board for preparation of appointment letters on the basis of fake recommendation letters, bypassing the normal chain of hierarchy and without sending those recommendation letters to the Appointment Section of Board of Secondary Education, West Bengal," it says.

56 Pandit teachers posted to safer locations

Rahul Bhat was killed 10 days ago

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Ten days after Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit, was killed in his office by militants, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday transferred 56 Pandit employees to safer educational institutes in Srinagar.

An official said the transfers ensured that the working Pandit couples were either posted in one educational institute or near each other's. Most of the teachers working in volatile parts of the old city have been transferred to uptown localities.

All these teachers were recruited under the Prime Minister's Return and Rehabilitation Scheme announced by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2008 for migrant Kashmiri Pandits who left the Valley in the 1990s. A total of 3,841 Pandit employees took up jobs under the scheme, which is mandated to recruit 6,000 educated migrants to bring their families to the Valley. Besides the scheme, hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits have opted for government jobs in the Valley in the past few years.

The administration has decided to transfer all Kashmiri Pandits working in vulnerable areas of 10 districts of the Valley. Most of these employees will be shifted to secure district headquarters.

Scores of Pandits took out a street march in Srinagar to press for the relocation of Pandit employees to the Jammu division from the volatile Kashmir division. Seeking justice for Mr. Bhat, hundreds of protesters assembled at the Lal Chowk, and raised anti-administration slogans.

Shutdown in Srinagar in memory of two leaders

SRINAGAR

A shutdown was observed in Srinagar's old city on Saturday to pay tributes to Moulvi Mohammad Farooq and Abdul Ghani Lone on their death anniversary. Farooq was killed on May 21, 1990 and Lone in 2002.

Video leads to arrest of man for murder

He was seen assaulting senior citizen

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR

A 38-year-old man was arrested for allegedly murdering a mentally challenged elderly person in Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh. A video has surfaced online in which the accused Dinesh Kushwaha, 38, is seen repeatedly slapping the victim Bhanwarlal Jain, 65,) asking if his name was "Mohammad". The accused is also said to have demanded to see the identity card of the victim.

Jain was a resident of Sarsi village in Ratlam district of the State. He went missing on May 16 after visiting a religious programme at Chittorgarh in Rajasthan, the police said. The body was found on Thursday evening on Rampura Road under the jurisdiction of the Manasa police station, 38 km from the Neemuch district headquarters. The alleged video is suspected to have been shot in the early hours of Thursday.

Evidence of assault

"After performing the last rites of the deceased, his family members came to know about a video which showed the purported assault and informed police," said K.L. Dangi, in-charge of Manasa police station. The police registered a case under Sections 302 (murder) and 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code. A hunt was launched for the accused who was arrested on Saturday evening.

What is happening in Madhya Pradesh after all? Tribals were lynched in Seoni, there were incidents in Guna, Mhow, Mandla and now this.

KAMAL NATH
Congress leader

"This is inhuman behaviour that has put all humanity to shame," said Mr. Dangi.

Meanwhile, the Congress alleged that Dinesh Kushwaha was a member of the BJP. Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath raised questions over the law-and-order situation in the state, adding that the accused in the latest incident was also associated with the BJP, just like those involved in the Seoni (mob lynching of two tribal people earlier this month) incident.

"What is happening in Madhya Pradesh after all? Tribals were lynched in Seoni, there were incidents in Guna, Mhow, Mandla and now an elderly person whose name is said to be Bhanwarlal Jain (is killed) in Manasa of Neemuch district of the state," he tweeted.

When asked about the Congress's allegation, BJP State secretary Rajneesh Agrawal told PTI, "The incident is unfortunate. An accused is an accused and it has nothing to do with the party politics. None of the people involved in such an act will be spared by the State government."

(With PTI inputs)

HC rejects Trinamool leader's election petition

Dual citizenship not applicable: court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

A fresh controversy erupted in West Bengal's political circles after the Calcutta High Court rejected an election petition of Trinamool Congress leader Alo Rani Sarkar on grounds that she held 'dual citizenship' and her name figured on Bangladesh's electoral roll.

Justice Bibek Chaudhuri, in his order on May 20, also directed a copy of the order to be sent to the Election Commission of India for taking necessary action "in respect of the petitioner's status in this country as on this date".

"In the instant case, the petitioner admitted that she acquired citizenship of Bangladesh mistakenly. However, the name of the petitioner still exists in the Electoral Roll of Bangladesh. I am in agreement with the learned advocate for the respondent that the principle of 'Dual Citizenship' is not applicable in India. The petitioner cannot claim to be a citizen of India when her name appeared in the Electoral Roll of Bangladesh," Justice Chaudhuri said.

Ms. Sarkar lost to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Swapan Majumdar in the West Bengal Assembly election held in 2021 by a margin of 2,004 votes.

She filed an election petition before the High Court challenging the poll result. Mr. Majumdar filed an application before the court that Ms. Sarkar is not a citizen of India and thus her petition did not stand.

When a nip and tuck goes awry

The aesthetic surgery industry is prey to lax regulation and fake promises

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Reshape, tighten and augment are key words in the exponentially growing world of aesthetic or cosmetic surgery. Estimated at ₹460 crore by industry experts, it's back in news following the death of a 21-year-old television actor who underwent liposuction, a body contouring procedure, and died at a private facility in Bengaluru earlier this week.

The incident threw open vital questions on the safety of aesthetic surgical interventions and the need for adequate regulatory mechanisms.

The industry is currently buoyed by image-driven social media as well as the increasing prevalence of obesity. Promises of magical, instant results lure ill-informed patients. Advertisements at 'beauty centres' promise free consultations with doctors, painless procedures, no stitches/ scarring/ swelling, "no cost EMI" (equated monthly installment), 60-minute sessions, one-day discharge, even pick-up and drop-off facilities.

Quick fix: Promises of magical, instant results lure ill-informed patients to the procedures. •GETTY IMAGES

"Too good to be true advertisements are always a red flag. All interventions come with inherent risk factors and here's where a trained, qualified professional comes into play. All human bodies aren't the same and the one-size-fits-all approach of clinics mushrooming without any quality control is a cause for concern. Patients' unrealistic expectations, coupled with lax legislation and implementation, drives the profit-centric market," Chennai-based consultant dermatologist D. Dinesh Kumar explained.

Dr. Kumar is the honorary secretary general, Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL), which is now working with the government to introduce some form of accreditation for dermatology clinics to ensure standardised treatment. "We are also working on a set of guidelines that will bring all professionals on a level playing ground," Dr. Kumar said.

Data from the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery shows 5,24,064 aesthetic procedures (surgical and non-surgical) were carried out in India in 2020.

Dermatologists in India have welcomed the recent Delhi High Court direction that only trained dermatologists and surgeons can carry out hair transplant procedures. They point out that when profits come into the picture, "patients become customers".

"The industry is plagued by online patient aggregators," said Dr. Sumeet Shah, director, metabolic and bariatric surgery, PSRI Hospital, Delhi. "Factually incorrect advertisements, centres with no hospital back-up, those compromising safety standards, sub-standard staff – all add to the risk factors."

"Stringent regulation is the need of the hour. Patients, doctors and the government need take notice of the need to regulate the industry. We are now concentrating on educating patients to make informed choices, which will ultimately drive the market to offer standardised treatment plans that work for every individual," Dr. Kumar said.

BJP's 'deep state' is chewing India, says Rahul

Ruling party terms him a 'part-time, immature, unsuccessful' leader

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The "deep state" in India is "chewing" the Indian state much like in Pakistan, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in an attack on the Modi government, provoking a predictable backlash on Saturday from the ruling party, which branded him a "part-time, immature, unsuccessful leader".

During an interactive session at the "Ideas for India" conference organised by non-profit think-tank Bridge India in London on Friday, Mr. Gandhi said the soul of India is under attack from the BJP and "a soul without a voice means nothing and what has happened is that India's voice has been crushed".

"So, the deep state, the CBI, the ED, is now chewing the Indian state and eating it, much like in Pakistan," he said. A video of the event was released by the Congress on Saturday.

An angry BJP shot back, accusing Mr. Gandhi of harming India in his "hate" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and alleged his frequent critical remarks about the country from foreign soil amounted to "betrayal".

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia launched a sharp attack on the Congress leader

Rahul Gandhi

for his remarks at the London event, where Mr. Gandhi accused the ruling party of spreading "kerosene all over the country, you need one spark and we will be in big trouble".

It is the Congress which has been carrying kerosene to incite riots since the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Mr. Bhatia alleged, dubbing Mr. Gandhi a "part-time, immature, unsuccessful leader of a hopeless Congress" who has often spoken negatively about the country abroad.

"He keeps making such comments frequently and it will not be wrong to say that this amounts to betraying the country," Mr. Bhatia said.

At the London event, the former Congress chief asserted his party would coordinate with regional outfits to launch a nationwide movement against the ruling dispensation and reach out to people in a big way.

"We have to coordinate with our friends in the Opposition. I don't view the Congress as the 'Big Daddy'. It is a group effort with the opposition. But it is a fight to regain India," he said at the conclave.

Not arrogance, it is confidence: Jaishankar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday defended the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), which was described by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as "arrogant". Mr. Gandhi had made the observation during an interaction in London on Saturday.

"Yes, the Indian Foreign Service has changed. Yes, they follow the orders of the Government. Yes, they counter the arguments of others. No, its not called Arrogance. It is called Confidence. And it is called defending National Interest," Dr. Jaishankar tweeted.

Mr. Gandhi had spoken about the greater need for using conversation to navigate through the challenges before the contemporary world, and recollected critical impressions by European bureaucrats on Indian diplomats. "I was talking to bureaucrats from Europe and they said the IFS has completely changed and won't listen to anything, they're arrogant. Now they just tell us what orders they're getting, there's no conversation; you can't do that," Mr. Gandhi had said.

BJP to come up with State-wise poll strategy

'We will focus on good governance'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

B.L. Santhosh

A two-day meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) national office-bearers ended here on Saturday, with a decision on improving training programmes for party workers at the district and State levels to strengthen the organisation. The BJP affirmed that its government at the Centre had played a role in taking the nation to "greater heights of strength and prosperity".

In closed-door meetings on the final day, BJP leaders are learnt to have said that the preparations would begin simultaneously for the 2024 Lok Sabha election and the Assembly elections in several States in 2022-23. A strategy will be formulated for making "weak" polling booths stronger with the formation of local committees.

Specific strategies

BJP general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh said a new programme called *Sewa, Sushasan Evum Ghareeb Kalyan* (service, good governance and welfare of the poor) would be launched across the country. Specific strategies will also be formulated for each State going to the polls during the next two years.

The BJP will fight next year's Assembly election in Rajasthan with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its face, the party's State president Satish Poonia said. "

Faces are projected on certain occasions, but sometimes there is no need to do so... The BJP will fight the polls under the leadership of Mr. Modi," Mr. Poonia said. His announcement indicated that former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje may not be projected as the chief ministerial candidate in the 2023 Assembly election despite her role in the State's leadership.

Ms. Raje's relations with the party's central leadership have been a subject of speculation since the Congress came to power in Rajasthan in 2018.

The BJP's State unit heads, *morcha* heads and organisational general secretaries were present in the meeting. Nearly 100 party functionaries attended different sessions and the closed-door consultations.

Presidential poll on menu, as KCR, Akhilesh meet for lunch

Term of Kovind ends on July 25; election expected in June

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Key meet: SP chief Akhilesh Yadav with Telangana CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao in New Delhi, on Saturday. • PTI

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao met Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav for lunch in Delhi ahead of the latest political test for the Opposition in the presidential election.

The term of President Ram Nath Kovind ends on July 25 and election is expected to be held next month. Mr. Rao, who reached Delhi on Friday, will meet Opposition leaders over the next two weeks and travel across the country. His party, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), which so far has been supporting the government, has belatedly joined the Opposition space.

On April 11, during a day-long dharna of the Telangana Cabinet along with all the Telangana Rashtra Samithi lawmakers, both in the Assembly and Parliament, Mr. Rao said he would bring together every non-BJP party to force the government to introduce a legal backing for minimum support price.

He also said that he would be back in Delhi to initiate talks with Opposition parties on the coming presidential election.

'No Congress'

Mr. Rao is clear that this anti-BJP forum must be without the Congress.

Even for the presidential election, he, according to sources, wants the non-Congress Opposition parties to take the initiative instead of relying on the Congress.

According to sources, Mr. Yadav spent nearly two hours with Mr. Rao. This was the first meeting between the two after the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, where the Samajwadi Party won 111 seats.

The meeting was described by party leaders as a courtesy call, but the sources said that many national issues, including the presidential election, were discussed.

At 5 p.m., Mr. Rao met also Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Congress flays U.P. govt for revised ration card criteria

How can onus be on poor people and not on officials, it asks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday attacked the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh for revising the eligibility criteria to have ration cards.

The party said that while the BJP bragged about the free ration scheme during the election, it was snatching food from the poor on returning to power.

At a press conference in Delhi, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said that the "free ration scheme" was waved in the face of every question on inflation, state of the economy, and high unemployment rate.

She said the Uttar Pradesh government, through the district magistrates, had issued orders saying that people who own even a motorcycle, run a poultry business or dairy, have any piece of land or even a roof over their heads were no longer eligible to hold ration cards.

Supriya Shrinate

They have been asked to return the ration card and in case they don't, the market cost of the foodgrains given to them will be retrospectively collected from them.

'Penalising the poor'

Ms. Shrinate asked, "The one question that comes to my mind is during the middle of a pandemic even if someone had a motorcycle but had lost their jobs and had no income, how did the government expect them to be fed?" It is equally surprising that the onus is being put on the ration card holders rather than the officials who issued them.

"Let us for a minute assume that ration cards were given to some people who do not qualify for it, but who gave these ration cards? Were they not given by officials of the Uttar Pradesh government and should they not be held accountable before penalising the poor people for allegedly faulty ration cards?" the party spokesperson said.

The 2013 Food Security Act lays down the percentage of people to be legally covered by food security in each State. In Uttar Pradesh, 79.5% of the people in rural areas and 64.4% in urban areas stand to benefit from the Food Security Act.

The April 2022 food grain bulletin released by the Government of India states that 15.2 crore people in Uttar Pradesh should be beneficiaries of the Act.

'Assam-Arunachal row will be resolved by 2023'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the inter-State boundary dispute between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam would be resolved by 2023.

It must be noted that the Assembly election in Arunachal Pradesh is due in 2024.

Addressing a function at the Ramakrishna Mission School in Arunachal Pradesh's Tirap district, he underscored insurgency and inter-State boundary disputes as the two major problems in the Northeast.

"More than 60% of the disputed areas on the Assam-Meghalaya boundary has been resolved. We are optimistic that similar disputes between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam would be resolved by next year," Mr. Shah said.

Adhir alleges hacking of Twitter account

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury filed a complaint with South Avenue police station in Delhi, alleging that his Twitter account was tampered with and a malicious tweet was posted.

The complaint was filed after it surfaced that in a tweet paying tribute to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary he shared the infamous quote "when a big tree falls, the ground shakes" on Twitter. Rajiv Gandhi had said this during the anti-Sikh riots in Delhi soon after the assassination of his mother and India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh security staff.

After many Twitter users pointed this out, the tweet was deleted. "The tweet against my name has nothing to do with my own observation. A malicious campaign is propagated by those forces inimical to me," he later said in a tweet.

River-linking project in Gujarat scrapped

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government on Saturday announced that it had scrapped the proposed Par-Tapi-Narmada river link project in south Gujarat after strong protests by tribal communities of the three districts in the region.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Saturday called a press conference in Surat to declare that the controversial project, which was proposed in the Union Budget, had been scrapped.

"Due to misunderstanding created among tribal people, they are upset with the project. The State government had not granted any approval for commencing the project works," Mr. Patel said

Earlier, the State government had said the project had been suspended, following month-long protests by local tribal communities.

According to the India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS), the project proposed to transfer water from the "water surplus regions" of the Western Ghats to the deficit regions of Saurashtra and Kutch, and involved seven reservoirs in north Maharashtra and south Gujarat.

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (UP)
Phones: 0522-4918510, Fax 0522-4918506 Website : www.drmlims.ac.in
Ref. No. RMLIMS/MM(eq)/2022-23/677 Dated: 20.05.2022

Tender Notice

On-line offers are invited through BOQ Based GeM bidding from Manufacturer/Bidders/Firms/Fabricators for the supply of one Cancer Detection and Awareness Mobile Van with all medical & other equipments including furniture & fixtures on turnkey basis.

The Vendors are required to submit their offer on GeM portal only in two bids system i.e. technical & financial bid as per norms of GeM portal.

For detailed information like terms and conditions, specifications, Date of Submission and opening of bid etc., you may please visit the GeM portal. Details are also available in our website www.drmlims.ac.in for reference only. **Director**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, RAYAGADA
e-mail:- eephd.rgda.od@nic.in
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO.SEPHDRAYAGADA-13/2022-23 DT.19.05.2022

01.	Name of the Work	:	Procurement of D.I. K-9 Pipe for Augumentation of WIS to Rayagada Town
02.	Number of works	:	1 Nos.
03.	Estimate cost	:	549.87 Lakh
04.	Period of Completion	:	As per DTCN
05.	Class of Contractor	:	Reputed Manufacturers
06.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	From 09.00 AM of Dt. 30.05.2022 To 17.30 PM of 13.06.2022
07.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	:	17.30 PM of 13.06.2022
08.	Date & Time of opening of bids	:	At 12 PM of dt.16.06.2022
09.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid.	:	Superintending Engineer, P.H.Division, Rayagada
10	The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only		

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"

C-337 : SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA
OIPR-13052/11/0008/2223

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel.:(0674) 2380660; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Bid Ref. No. : OSMCL/2022-23/BLOOD BANK-SBTC/11 Date: 23/05/2022

Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for **Supply of Blood Bags, Test Kits and Reagents as per the particulars mentioned below:**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	23/05/2022, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - drugs-osmcl@gov.in	26/05/2022, up to 5:00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		01/06/2022, 3 PM	20/06/2022, 6 PM
4.	Date & Time for submission of Tender Documents & Tender Document Cost.	21/06/2022, 10 AM	28/06/2022, till 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	28/06/2022, 11:30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

CAD-595 SD/- Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha
OIPR-10112/11/0010/2223

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS,TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender cum e-Reverse tendering is invited for procurement of the following item by the Marketing Department, T.T.D., Tirupati

Sl No.	Name of the Item	Quantity	Period	EMD Amount	Download starting and Ending Dates
01	Sona Masoori Slender Variety (Old) Without Steamed with Agmark	30,60,000 Kgs	06 Months	Rs. 25,00,000/-	20.05.2022 03.06.2022

For tender notice and tender details log on to the website **http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** For Further details contact phone Numbers: 0877-2264079, 22645255, Fax: 0877-2264554

Roc. No.PR4/13942/Adv.No.66/PRO/2022.Dt:21.05.2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (JIPMER)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family welfare)
Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry- 605 006
Advertisement No. Admin-I/SR/1/1-2022

Competitive Examination (Stage-I) for Recruitment to the post of Senior Residents for JULY 2022 for JIPMER Puducherry and JIPMER Karaikal

Online applications are invited from Indian citizens as per Govt. of India Residency Scheme, for tenure posts of Senior Residents for a maximum period upto 3 years for JIPMER Puducherry & JIPMER Karaikal. These posts include existing vacant posts, backlog vacancies for SC, ST & OBC and the posts which are likely to fall vacant by 31-12-2022. Subject wise details of posts can be seen on the Institute website. Selection will be done by an online computer based test (CBT) followed by Interview (Stage-II) of shortlisted candidates through videoconferencing.

Online Registration and applications

Opens on: 23rd May, 2022	Closes on: 20th June, 2022

Recruitment Examination

Date of Computer based test	Duration of Examination	Examination Cities
09-07-2022 (Saturday)	09.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Delhi/NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai & Puducherry

Date for interview will be announced and informed by email to short listed candidates after the result of computer based test is ready.

Important: For prospectus, number of post, eligibility criteria, detailed information etc. please visit the website www.jipmer.edu.in. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum / Addendum / Updates will be uploaded in the website only. **Director**

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS,TIRUPATI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CUM REVERSE TENDERING

Adv. No.TTD-44021/1/2022-PRESS SEC TTD Dated: 20.05.2022

e-tenders are invited for outsourcing Printing and Supply of Sapthagiri Magazine on Annual Rate Contract Basis. For tender notice & tender details log on to the website http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in. For further details Contact: 0877-2264533 (or) 0877-2264292

Roc. No.PR4/13942/Adv.No.65/PRO/2022.Dt:21.05.2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY-e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: 17/2022-23/KWA/PHC/D3/TVM JJM CWSS to Aryanad –Uzhamalaikkal Panchayath: Construction of OHSR at Theviyarkunnu-Pallivetta, Clear water gravity main, Distribution network and providing 9864 FHTCs at Aryanad –Uzhamalaikkal Panchayath EMD: ₹500000 Tender fee: ₹15000. Last Date for submitting Tender: 13-06-2022 03:00 pm **Phone : 0471-2322303**
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-238-2022-23 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
Tilhan Sangh Bhawan, 01 Arera Hills, Bhopal
URL : https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, Phone : 0755-2578915
Dated : 20.05.2022

TENDER NOTICE

Tender for rate contracts of following items/Services floated on website and portal dated 20.05.2022 :-

1. Online Tender Ref. No. T-329/MPPHSCL/Pharma/RC/2022 uploaded on 20.05.2022 Portal and Website.
2. Online Tender Ref. No. T-330/MPPHSCL/Pharma/RC/2022 uploaded on 20.05.2022 Portal and Website.
3. Online Tender Ref. No. T-331/MPPHSCL/Pharma/RC/2022 uploaded on 20.05.2022 Portal and Website.

All Prospective bidders are requested to visit **www.mptenders.gov.in / https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in** for further details.
M.P. Madhyam/104957/2022 **CGM (TECHNICAL)**

MYSORE PAINTS & VARNISH LTD.,
(A Govt., of Karnataka Undertaking)
New Bannimantap Extension, MYSURU-570 015
Phone: 0821-2493831/ 2497469/ 2499340, **website: www.mysorepaints.karnataka.gov.in**
email: admin-mpvl@karnataka.gov.in /materials-mpvl@karnataka.gov.in

Short term Re Tender Notification Date: 20.05.2022

Tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers / authorized dealers for supply of the following materials through e Procurement Portal **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)**. The details are as mentioned below:

Sl No.	Short term re-tender notification Number	Tender Description	Tender Category	Last Date & Time for submission of Tender / Bids	Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening
01.	MPVL/2021-22/ IND459/CALL-2	Procurement of **Packing Materials**	**Supply of Goods**	01-06-2022	03-06-2022
02.	MPVL/2022-23/IND460	Procurement of **Resins**		01-06-2022	03-06-2022
03.	MPVL/2022-23/IND461	Procurement of **Pigments**		01-06-2022	03-06-2022
04.	MPVL/2022-23/IND462	Procurement of **Driers, Matting Agents and Extenders.**		01-06-2022	03-06-2022

Interested parties may visit **www.mysorepaints.karnataka.gov.in** for details and can contact the undersigned for any further clarifications/ information and request to participate in the tender.

For Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd.,
Sd/- TIA / General Manager (Admin)

Police station torched over custodial death

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

An irate mob torched a police station in central Assam's Nagaon district on Saturday after the alleged custodial death of a fish trader. Three people were arrested for their alleged involvement in the attack after two policemen had to be hospitalised

The mob stormed the Batadrava police station, vandalised it and thrashed policemen. They later set the police station on fire, destroying documents, and some firearms. The wife of the deceased, Safikul Islam, said the police had picked him up on Friday night and demanded ₹10,000 and a duck from him. "We could only afford a duck, so they beat him to death," she said. The police refuted the accusation.

Oil firms want diesel sales in slow lane

Dealers say they are under pressure to curb sale to bulk buyers trying to benefit from lower retail price

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Petroleum dealers have written to the Union government flagging concern over the increased pressure they are facing from state-owned oil marketing companies to restrict the sale of diesel at their outlets as more bulk consumers seek to take advantage of the relatively lower price at which the fuel is sold to retail buyers.

"We have been advised to restrain sale to new customers and cater only to our existing customers," the Consortium of Indian Petroleum Dealers (CIPD) wrote to the oil industry coordinator in a letter, the contents of which were shared with *The Hindu*. "Fear of short supplies will cause panic," CIPD president M. Narayana Prasad wrote, appealing to the companies not to ration fuel.

Hidden hand: Though petrol and diesel are deregulated, the government does intervene in fixing prices. • G.N. RAO

At the heart of the "dikate bus fleet operators, industries and operators of generator sets.

Another reason for oil companies asking dealers to keep a watch is the revenue loss on account of petrol and diesel prices not getting adjusted always in tandem with that of crude oil. Though petrol and diesel have been deregulated, giving oil firms the freedom to fix prices, in reality it is done in coordination with the government.

> **Stock out had been caused because some dealers had been unable to clear dues and pay for supplies by the end of the day**
>
> SENIOR HPCL OFFICIAL

No credit

A recent decision by two firms to stop offering products to dealers on credit has also affected supplies to consumers.

The shift away from the practice of allowing dealers to pay later has led to "stock out" situations at fuel outlets in several places, sources in the trade and senior officials of the two oil firms confirmed.

A senior HPCL official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, explained that "stock out" had been caused because some dealers had been unable to clear their dues and place indents under a new system that requires them to pay for the supplies received by the end of the day.

A senior official of the Indian Oil Corporation, who preferred not be named, said the firm was supplying products on demand. "We have not put restrictions on any supply," he said, admitting that the same may not be true across the oil industry, especially since product prices had been on hold for long posing challenges to the OMCs.

Centre announces Ayush initiatives in Sikkim

Yoga centre will be set up: Sonowal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An international yoga and naturopathy college would be set up in Sikkim that would also boost medical tourism in the northeast, Union Minister for Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal said on Saturday.

He also announced other initiatives to boost the traditional medicinal practices, including Sowa Rigpa, Ayurveda and naturopathy, in Sikkim, at a national workshop in the State on Sowa Rigpa, the traditional and ancient medicinal practice of the Himalayan people.

Underlying the importance of Sowa Rigpa, the Minister said that a 30-bed Sowa Rigpa Hospital would be set up in Sikkim. A yoga and wellness centre at every gram panchayat along with

Sarbananda Sonowal

an Ayurveda medical college under the satellite institute programme in the State would be set up.

Mr. Sonowal highlighted the scope for Ayush-based growth in the region, stating that the Ministry was exploring the possibility of setting up a research council on Sowa Rigpa.

He also inaugurated a Sowa Rigpa college building at the NIT in Gangtok.

Judge who donned various caps retires

Justice Rao played lawyer in film too

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge Justice L. Nageswara Rao has represented the law in both real and reel lives.

In *Kanoon Apna Apna*, a 1989 action-drama, a heavily moustachioed, dapper-looking "inspector" is requested by the "district collector" to summon the leader of a group of agitators to his office.

Justice L.Nageswara Rao

The "police inspector", none other than Justice Rao, marches up to the sloganeering protestors, and says: "Stop it!"

The crowd immediately falls silent and the leader, comedian Kader Khan, is walked to the office of the "collector", thespian Dileep Kumar.

There, Kader Khan reveals the nuisance Mr. Kumar's son, a young Sanjay Dutt, is causing in his self-assumed role as a vigilante who delivers justice with his fists.

Justice Rao retires on June 7.

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said Justice Rao's leaving would be a "deep loss" for the Supreme Court.

A first-generation lawyer from Prakasam in Andhra Pradesh, Justice Rao, after a stint in his native State, established his legal practice in Delhi and went on to become the Additional Solicitor-General for two terms.

He was also on the Justice Mukul Mudgal Committee that investigated the allegations of corruption against the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) and spot-fixing in the IPL (Indian Premier League).

Justice Rao was invited to the Supreme Court Bench in 2016. He accepted and became only the seventh apex court judge to be directly appointed from the Bar.

"He left a roaring practice to adorn the Bench to render justice. Not everyone can think of making such a sacrifice," Chief Justice Ramana described his friend and colleague's decision to join the Bench.

In his last working week as Supreme Court judge, Justice Rao used, back-to-back, the extraordinary powers of the court under Article 142 to do complete justice.

Perarivalan release

A Bench led by Justice Rao ordered the release of Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict A.G. Perarivalan, and, on the very next day, flexed Article 142 again to grant interim bail to Azam Khan. He had also played in the Ranji Trophy tournament in 1982.

"His passion for sports is one of the reasons why he is so spirited and sharp... I am sure he will find time for new adventures after this break from his hectic schedule as a judge," the CJI said.

Dominica drops proceedings against Choksi

Fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi was accused of illegally entering the country in May 2021

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Dominica has stopped criminal proceedings against fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi.

The legal victory for Mr. Choksi comes a year after a court in Dominica accused the wanted businessman of entering the country illegally.

Mr. Choksi had maintained that he was abducted by a group of individuals from his beachside house in Antigua where he acquired citizenship in 2017.

"Mr. Choksi is pleased that the Dominican Government has today dropped all charges against him for unlawful entry in May 2021. By doing so they now recognise that there was never any case against him," said a spokesperson, representing Mr. Choksi.

Report by police

The case also saw the tabling of an interim report on the incident filed by the Antiguan Police.

Mehul Choksi

The report has stated that Mr Choksi's version is correct.

Mehul Choksi, fugitive diamantaire, and his nephew Nirav Modi are wanted for defrauding banks in a scam amounting to more than a billion dollars.

He hit the headlines last year when it was reported that a woman friend had persuaded him to leave his house for a trip to Dominica.

Accuses Indian govt.

The spokesperson, however, accused the Indian government of playing a role in the alleged abduction which involved multiple operators and high-speed boats.

"Mr. Choksi was forcibly removed from Antigua against his will by agents of the Indian State, viciously assaulted, and taken to Dominica by boat, where he was again unlawfully handed over to authorities for an offence he never committed," said the spokesperson.

The Antiguan Police of the Carībbean Island report has also supported the fact that the Indian businessman, Mehul Choksi, was indeed abducted from Antigua.

MNS to push loudspeaker issue further

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Facing embarrassment after postponing his Ayodhya tour, MNS chief Raj Thackeray is unlikely to drift from his Hindutva agenda at his Pune rally on Sunday. "He has declared that he will talk about the circumstances around which his tour got postponed. The party has not given up on our agenda of illegal loudspeakers . He will push the issue further," said a leader.

CBI searches premises of brokers

Over 10 trading members come under scanner in the NSE co-location scam

DEVESH KUMAR PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday searched the premises of brokers in more than 10 locations in various parts of the country in connection with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) co-location scam.

The searches were carried out in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Gandhinagar, Noida and Gurugram.

"The scope of investigation in the case has been expanded. More than 10 trading members have come under the scanner," said an agency official.

The CBI zeroed in on the alleged beneficiaries based on the scrutiny of documents gathered from the exchange regulators and its own findings.

Last month, the agency filed a chargesheet against the former NSE managing director, Chitra Ramkrishna,

Chitra Ramkrishna

and its former group operating officer Anand Subramanian.

The CBI had arrested Mr. Subramanian in February and soon thereafter, Ms. Ramkrishna was also arrested.

The arrests were made following the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) order levying fines on the two accused and others on several counts.

The Income Tax Department had also searched their premises in Chennai and Mumbai.

Preferential access

The agency had registered the case in May 2018, alleging that Delhi-based broker firm OPG Securities, owned by Sanjay Gupta, and some others used an algorithmic trading software to get preferential access to the NSE server data during 2010-14, in conspiracy with some data centre staff members. Taking advantage of the then available co-location facility, they also gained quicker data access through the exchange's secondary server.

The software was developed by co-accused Ajay Narottam Shah on the basis of the exchange's trade data gathered in 2005-06, ostensibly for the purpose of research work. It is alleged that the data was shared with Infotech Financial Services Private Limited and Mr. Shah and despite that, the company provided the algorithmic software to various brokers.

'Himalayan' yogi

The probe in the case took a new turn when the agency scrutinised the email exchanges between Ms. Ramkrishna and a "Himalayan yogi". They included Mr. Subramanian's appointment as the chief strategic adviser, his re-designation as group operating officer and huge salary increments for him in quick successions.

The CBI accused Mr. Subramanian of creating the email ID "rigyajursama@outlook.com" through which the unknown "yogi" communicated with Ms. Ramkrishna and got the NSE's confidential papers from her. The agency retrieved about 2,500 email exchanges and also contacted Microsoft for assistance.

New species of snake found in Meghalaya

It is named *Trimeresurus mayaae*

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya, the land of the mythical evil spirit that takes the form of a giant serpent called U Thlen, has yielded a new-to-science, venomous green snake.

Recorded simultaneously in Mizoram, the snake has been named *Maya's pit viper* after the deceased mother of an Army officer, one of seven authors of a study on it. The name of the pit viper, recognised as *Trimeresurus mayaae*. The study was published in the recent edition of *PLOS One*, a peer-reviewed open access scientific journal published by the Public Library of Science.

Jayaditya Purkayastha, a herpetologist from the wildlife research group Help Earth and a lead author of the study, said the new species was relatively common in Meghalaya, Mizoram and

Trimeresurus mayaae

even in Guwahati.

But the snake used to be referred to as either the Pope's Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus popeiorum*) or Gumprecht's Green Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus gumprechti*) until it was observed closely at the Umroi Military Station.

Mr. Purkayastha collaborated with Colonel Yashpal Singh Rathee of the military station and H.T. Lalremsanga of Mizoram University, who also recorded the same species in Mizoram.

SUDOKU

7		2			5	8		
5	9		4					
6				9				
		9					8	1
			2		7			
4	6					7		
				2				3
					4		9	8
		8	3			5		7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	7	6	1	8	3	2	9
3	9	1	2	4	5	6	8	7
2	6	8	9	7	3	1	5	4
1	8	6	5	9	4	2	7	3
9	5	2	7	3	6	8	4	1
4	7	3	8	2	1	5	9	6
6	2	4	3	5	7	9	1	8
8	1	9	4	6	2	7	3	5
7	3	5	1	8	9	4	6	2

Delhi's historic mosques have a fountain connection

Fatehpuri Masjid has a six-foot-high fountain made of white marble; the waterbody in Jama Masjid has a circular fountain

ZIYA US SALAM
NEW DELHI

Five times a day, the faithful gather around the *hauz* at the historic Jama Masjid in Old Delhi for ablution before daily prayers. At the centre of the waterbody is a circular fountain made of white marble.

The fountain is placed right behind the central *mihrab*, or niche, of the mosque built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in 1650. For centuries, it has helped in water circulation in the tank dug inside the earth.

"In the past, water from the fountain and *hauz* was sprinkled over the dead as many considered it sacred," Hakim Fazlur Rehman, a Unani doctor, says. "I have been frequenting the mosque since the pre-Emergency days."

Close quarters

Even as the faithful climb 39 steps to reach the mosque built in red sandstone and white marble, there is another mosque barely a kilometre away with similar antecedents, and an even bigger fountain in the ablution area. Located at the far end of Chandni Chowk, the Fatehpuri Masjid was constructed by one of the wives of Shah Jahan, Fatehpuri Begum. It has a large ablution area, wide in the middle and tapering towards the two ends.

At the centre of this *hauz* is a six-foot-high fountain made of white marble. It has been that way ever since the local people can remember. It didn't change even when the mosque was bought by a local businessman, Lala Chunnamal, for ₹19,000 after it had fallen into the hands of the British post the Revolt of 1857. It remained that way when the mosque was bought back from him in 1877. The domes, the niches, the *hauz* and the fountain all remained intact.

Spouting history: Jama Masjid and Fatehpuri Masjid, two of Delhi's historic mosques dating back to the 17th century, have marble fountains in their ablution area. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Delhi's historic mosques built during the time of the Mughals seem to have an abiding fountain connection. All of them are meant for water circulation.

Almost all mosques of the 16th and 17th centuries have a fountain in their *wuzukhana* or ablution area.

Some have removed it only recently to replace the creaky old structure with a new one. Among them is the historic Masjid Abdun Nabi located next to the erstwhile police headquarters in central Delhi.

The mosque, which serves as the nodal point for Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, has had a large pond for ablution. At the centre of it has been a fountain. Named after Mughal emperor Akbar's registrar, the mosque is under renovation.

Under repair

"We have always had a fountain in the *hauz* here. Just before Ramzan this year, we had to repair the *hauz* as the fountain was no longer working well. It is under repair now," says Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind's senior functionary Fazlur Rahman.

The story is repeated at the historic Madrasa Husain Bux in Old Delhi that played host to freedom fighters in the early 20th century. The madrasa has had a *hauz* or a pond with a fountain at the centre.

Under renovation after the pandemic, the fountain was replaced with a pillar at the centre with provision for birds to quench their thirst in summers.

"I have been working here since 1968. The madrasa always had a fountain in the *hauz*," says Mohammed Qayyum, muezzin at the place. "It used to be a cylindrical two-storey structure. Fish used to roam around it."

The story is repeated at the good old Patna Wali Masjid in Bara Hindu Rao and Masjid Fakhruddin in Azad Market, etc. And indeed at the Lal Masjid, not far from the residence of famous Urdu poet Ghalib. "I have prayed at Patna Wali Masjid for the past 40 years. The fountain still works," says Mohammed Javed, a local worshipper.

Noted American historian Audrey Truschke explains the reason behind the presence of fountains in Islamic architecture.

"You got to circulate water. Otherwise, it will be gross and mosquito haven. Pleasantness of surroundings and cleanliness are pretty strong concerns in Islamicate culture," she notes.

Only talks can end war, says Ukraine

The conflict will be bloody, warns Zelensky; Russia cuts gas supplies to Finland over NATO entry bid

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky warned on Saturday that only a diplomatic breakthrough rather than an outright military victory could end Russia's war on his country, as Moscow cut gas supplies to Finland.

"There are things that can only be reached at the negotiating table," Mr. Zelensky said, just as Russia claimed its long-range missiles had destroyed a shipment of Western arms destined for Ukraine's troops.

After just over 12 weeks of fierce fighting, Ukrainian forces have halted Russian attempts to seize Kyiv and the northern city of Kharkiv, but are under renewed and intense pressure in the eastern Donbas region.

Moscow's army has flattened and seized the southeastern port city of Mariupol and subjected Ukrainian troops and towns in the east to a remorseless ground and artillery attack.

Mr. Zelensky's Western allies have shipped modern weaponry to his forces and imposed sweeping sanctions on the Russian economy and President Vladimir Putin's inner circle. But the Kremlin has responded by disrupting European energy supplies, and on Saturday cut off gas shipments to Finland, which angered Moscow by applying to join the NATO alliance.

Warming up: Fighters of the territorial defence unit, a support force to the Ukrainian Army, training outside Kyiv. • AFP

Against this backdrop, Mr. Zelensky told Ukrainian television the war would end "through diplomacy".

The conflict, he warned, "will be bloody, there will be fighting but will only definitively end through diplomacy" – promising only that the result would be "fair" for Ukraine.

"Discussions between Ukraine and Russia will decidedly take place. Under what format I don't know – with intermediaries, without them, in a broader group, at presidential level," he said.

In order to side-step financial sanctions and force European energy clients to prop up his central bank, Mr. Putin has demanded that importers from "unfriendly countries" pay for gas in roubles. Russian energy giant Gazprom said it had halted supplies to Finland as it had not received rouble payments from Finland's state-owned energy company Gasum by the end of Friday.

Biden signs $40-bn aid Bill for Ukraine's war effort

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL

U.S. President Joe Biden on Saturday signed a $40-billion Bill set to ensure a steady supply of weaponry and economic support for Ukraine in its fight against Russia, the White House said.

Mr. Biden signed the Bill passed earlier by Congress while visiting Seoul on his first trip to Asia as President. The Bill, which will funnel support to Ukraine for about the next five months, includes around $6 billion budgeted for armoured vehicles and air defences.

Women defy Taliban order to cover faces on air

Supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada had issued diktat

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Women presenters on Afghanistan's leading TV channels went on air on Saturday without covering their faces, defying a Taliban order that they conceal their appearance to comply with the group's austere brand of Islam.

Since surging back to power last year the Taliban have imposed a slew of restrictions on civil society, many focused on reining in the rights of women and girls.

Earlier this month, Afghanistan's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada issued a diktat for women to cover up fully in public, including their faces, ideally with the traditional burkha.

The feared Ministry for Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice ordered women TV presenters to follow suit by Saturday.

An Afghan woman walking on a street in Kabul.

Previously they had only been required to wear a headscarf. But broadcasters TOLOnews, Shamshad TV and 1TV all aired live programmes on Saturday with women presenters' faces visible. "Our female colleagues are concerned that if they cover their faces, the next thing they will be told is to stop working," said Shamshad TV head of news Abid Ehsas.

"This is the reason they have not observed the order so far," he said, adding that the channel had requested further discussions with the Taliban on the issue.

Mohammad Sadeq Akif Mohajir, spokesman for the Vice Ministry, said the women presenters were violating the Taliban directive. "If they don't comply we will talk to the managers and guardians of the presenters," he said.

"Anyone who lives under a particular system and government has to obey the laws and orders of that system, so they must implement the order," he said.

Pakistan, China nurtured tree of friendship: Sharif

'Nothing can make dent to iron bond'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and China are "two brothers" who nurtured the evergreen tree of mutual friendship over the years, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Saturday as he congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping on the 71st anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Pays rich tributes

In his message on the occasion, Mr. Sharif also paid rich tributes to the leaders and peoples of both the countries, who made efforts to transform this unmatched friendship into a cooperative strategic partnership and an iron bond.

"China and Pakistan are the names of two brothers," he said, adding that the "leadership and peoples of the two countries have nurtured this evergreen tree of friendship over the past 71 years".

Mr. Sharif noted that no untoward incident, storm in global politics or jealousy could make any dent to this iron bond.

S. Korea, U.S. open to expanded drills

Yoon, Biden affirm that shared goal remains complete denuclearisation of N. Korea

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL

U.S. President Joe Biden and his South Korean counterpart, Yoon Suk-yeol, said after meeting on Saturday that they would consider expanded joint military exercises to deter the nuclear threat from North Korea at a time when there's little hope of real diplomacy on the matter.

The announcement reflects a shift in direction by both leaders from their predecessors: former U.S. President Donald Trump had considered scrapping the exercises and expressed affection for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, while the last South Korean President, Moon Jae-in, remained committed to dialogue with Mr. Kim to the end of his term despite being repeatedly rebuffed by the North.

Renewing ties: Joe Biden and Yoon Suk-yeol exchanging toasts, in Seoul on Saturday. • REUTERS

Mr. Biden said cooperation between the U.S. and South Korea showed "our readiness to take on all threats together". Mr. Biden and Mr. Yoon affirmed in remarks at a joint news conference that their shared goal was the complete denuclearisation of North Korea.

The U.S. and South Korea said in a joint statement that they were committed to a "rules-based international order" following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The statement likely sets the stage for how the U.S. and its allies will address any challenges with North Korea. Yet Mr. Biden reiterated his offer of vaccines to North Korea as COVID-19 spreads at a fast speed through that country.

Palestinian 'militant' teen shot dead by Israeli troops

Another wounded in gunfire: officials

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

Israeli troops shot and killed a 17-year-old Palestinian militant as fighting erupted when soldiers entered a volatile town in the occupied West Bank early on Saturday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

The shooting, which Israel said came during a gunbattle with local militants, came at a time of intensified Israeli military activity in the northern West Bank town of Jenin in recent months. The Ministry identified the teen as Amjad al-Fayyed. It said another Palestinian – an 18-year-old – was in critical condition after being wounded by Israeli gunfire. Later on Saturday, the militant group Islamic Jihad said al-Fayyed was a member of its armed wing.

Local media reported that clashes erupted outside Jenin's refugee camp when Israeli forces stormed the area. In a statement, the Army said that soldiers opened fire after gunmen shot at them from a passing vehicle. It said the suspects also threw explosives toward the soldiers.

Sri Lanka lifts state of Emergency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

The state of Emergency in Sri Lanka has been lifted with effect from Saturday after the government decided not to present the Emergency Regulations in Parliament for approval with the improvement of the law and order situation in the island nation.

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had declared a state of Emergency with effect from May 6 midnight, the second time in just over a month .

Diesel from India

India provided another 40,000 metric tonnes of diesel to Sri Lanka under the credit line facility. "Another 40,000 MT of diesel under the credit line from #India reached #Colombo today," India's High Commission tweeted.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem-636005 for the following work.

Description:

Tender Notice Number and date: GEM/2022/B/2193685 dated 20.05.2022

Name of work: Outcome based Mechanized Cleaning, Pest and Rodent Control, Rag Picking, Garbage Collection Segregation and Disposal at Karur Railway Station for the period of 1096 days.

Estimate Value: Rs. 1,17,47,287/-

Earnest Money: Rs. 2,09,102/-

Tender Closing date and Time: 10.06.2022 at 14.00 Hrs.

Web address: **http://www.gem.gov.in**

The firm registered in GeM portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. For details of bid submission, please refer website portal **"http://www.gem.gov.in"**.

For details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal **"http://www.gem.gov.in"**.

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at **"http://www.gem.gov.in"**.

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem – 636 005

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-09/2677/2022-23 Date: 21.05.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding Class-I & above (Civil) Contractors registered in KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of **Providing and laying MS pipe raising main including jackwell, construction of GLSR (9100 cum) etc., from upstream of Korthi Kolhar Bridge to Mulwada Industrial Area, Kolhar Taluk, Vijayapura District.**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **20.06.2022 upto 04:00 pm**

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Trees are dying
The risk of trees dying in the tropical forests of northern Australia has doubled since the mid-1980s. There were 2,305 deaths among dozens of species, and trees' death rate doubled to 2% a year. The rise in the number of trees dying has occurred at the same time as a long-term drying trend in the atmosphere.

Elephants mourning
Videos have given fresh insight into how Asian elephants respond to death. Researchers used the videos to describe behaviours of elephants that had been known only anecdotally. These included what seems to be keeping vigil over the body of a peer, trumpeting or roaring, and females carrying deceased calves.

Dawn of farming
Europe's first farming populations descend mostly from farmers in the Anatolian peninsula, in what is now Turkey. And the ancient Anatolian farmers descended from repeated mixing between the distinct hunter-gather groups, which were from Europe and the Middle East. A pair of ancient-DNA studies reveal the finer details of the dawn of farming.

Little difference
A dog's breed has less influence on its personality. Researchers surveyed thousands of dog owners about the traits of their pets — ranging from propensity to eat grass to how likely they were to chase toys. The deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) sequence of a subsection of the dogs that were surveyed by the researchers found that breed explained only around 9% of the variation in dog behaviour.

India registers success with BP treatment, control

The India Hypertension Control Initiative, started in 2018, has been expanded to more than 100 districts

PRABHDEEP KAUR

Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are the leading cause of death among adults in India. One of the major drivers of heart attack and stroke is untreated high blood pressure or hypertension. Hypertension is a silent killer as most patients do not have any symptoms.

India has more than 200 million people with hypertension, and only 14.5% of individuals with hypertension are on treatment. Unlike many other diseases, hypertension is easy to diagnose and can be treated with low-cost generic drugs.

India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) is a multi-partner initiative involving the Indian Council of Medical Research, WHO-India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and State governments to improve blood pressure control for people with hypertension. The project initiated in 26 districts in 2018 has expanded to more than 100 districts by 2022. More than two million patients were started on treatment and tracked to see whether they achieved BP control.

The project demonstrated that blood pressure treatment and control are feasible in primary care settings in diverse health systems across various States in India. Before IHCI, many patients travelled to higher-level facilities such as community health centres (block level) or district hospitals in the public sector for hypertension treatment. Over three years, all levels of health staff at the primary health centres and health wellness centres were trained to provide treatment and follow-up services for hypertension.

Five scalable strategies

Nearly half (47%) of the patients under care achieved blood pressure control. The BP control among people enrolled in treatment was 48% at primary health centres and 55% at the health wellness centres. The most encouraging finding was that BP control in the primary care facilities was higher when compared with hospitals. The availability of medications in the peripheral facilities made it easier for the patient to continue treatment, thus improving BP control.

The project was built on five scalable strategies: First, a simple treatment protocol with three drugs was selected in consultation with the experts and non-communicable disease programme managers. Second, the supply chain was strengthened to ensure the availability of adequate antihypertensive drugs. Third, patient-centric approaches were followed, such as refills for at least 30 days and assigning the patients to the closest primary health centre or health wellness centre to make follow-up easier. Fourth, the focus was on building capacity of all health staff and sharing tasks such as BP measurement, documentation, and follow-up. Finally, there was minimal documentation using either paper-based or digital tools to track follow-up and BP control.

Data-driven approach

One of the unique contributions of the project was a data-driven approach to improving care and overall programme management. The list of people who did not return for treatment was generated through a digital system or on paper by the nurse/health workers. Patients were reminded either over the phone or by home visit (if feasible). This strategy motivated a large number of patients to continue treatment. In addition, programme managers reviewed aggregate data at the district and State levels to assess the performance of facilities in terms of follow-up and BP control.

Scaling hypertension treatment is feasible given the enablers in India's health system. When procured at scale, the generic antihypertensive drugs cost only ₹200 per patient per year.

India has a vast network of primary health centres where doctors and nurses can be trained to diagnose and treat hypertension.

Health wellness centres under Ayushman Bharat Yojna have specially trained nurses who can measure blood pressure and provide refills for patients initiated on treatment by doctors at the higher health facility.

In addition, E-Sanjeevani, a telemedicine initiative, facilitates teleconsultations.

Making progress

Since 2018, the project team has worked hand-in-hand with State health departments to strengthen the hypertension component within the framework of ongoing initiatives for the control of noncommunicable diseases. Based on the positive experience, several States have already started implementing the strategies beyond project districts.

We need to address a few challenges to reduce the treatment gap. Many people with hypertension are not aware of their high BP. All health facilities can measure BP at the entry point for people who visit the doctor for any health problem. This strategy, also known as opportunistic screening, does not require additional resources.

The availability of good quality blood pressure monitors is a prerequisite for accurate BP measurement. Extended refills up to 60 days can reduce visits to health facilities.

One of the challenges is the involvement of the private sector, where a large number of people with hypertension currently seek care. We must overcome the challenges to ensure early detection and treatment of hypertension to reduce preventable deaths and disability due to heart attack, stroke, and chronic kidney disease.

(Prabhdeep Kaur is Senior Scientist and Head of Division of NCD, ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai, and is a member of the IHCI team. kprabhdeep@nieicmr.org.in)

Encouraging results, but much more to be done

Hypertension is a silent killer as most patients do not have any symptoms

Opportunistic screening: All people visiting any healthcare facility should be first screened for BP. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- India has more than 200 million people with hypertension but only 14.5% of individuals with hypertension are on treatment
- Since 2018, more than two million patients have been started on treatment and tracked for BP control
- The project has demonstrated that blood pressure treatment and control is feasible in PHC settings in diverse health systems across States
- Over three years, health staff at PHCs health wellness centres have been trained to provide treatment and follow-up services
- Nearly half (47%) of the patients under care have achieved blood pressure control
- Availability of medications in the peripheral facilities made it easier for the patient to continue treatment and achieve BP control
- Based on the positive experience, several States have begun expanding the reach of the initiative beyond project districts

Researchers share draft genome sequences of monkeypox virus

The draft genome indicates that the virus circulating outside Africa belongs to the West African clade

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Researchers from the National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge (INSA), Lisbon, Portugal have shared the draft genome sequence of the monkeypox virus that is rapidly spreading in many European countries. The draft sequence has been posted at the virolgica-l.org site.

The released draft genome sequence covers about 92% of the reference sequence. The sample was obtained from a swab collected on May 4 from skin lesions from a male patient in Portugal. As on May 19, Portugal had reported over 20 laboratory-confirmed cases of monkeypox.

Draft genome sequence

Researchers from Belgium – the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, and the University of Antwerp, Antwerp – too have shared a draft genome sequence of monkeypox at the virolgical.org site. The researchers were able to reconstruct 98.9% of the genome.

Transmissibility: Cases of monkeypox in large numbers from multiple countries raise concerns about its increased human-to-human transmission. • CDC/BRIAN W.J. MAHY

The genome was sequenced from a sample collected from a person in Belgium. The 30-year-old male in Belgium has a travel history to Lisbon, Portugal.

In the month of May 2022, many cases of monkeypox have been reported from at least 11 countries and there were about 80 confirmed cases, and 50 pending investigations, the WHO tweeted on May 20.

According to the *New Scientist*, 127 cases have been identified by May 21. The cases are mainly from Europe – Portugal, the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Italy, Sweden, Belgium – and the U.S.

Monkeypox is not endemic in Europe or the U.S. but is endemic in a few Central and West African countries. The virus is transmitted from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials.

Phylogenetic analysis

Based on rapid phylogenetic analysis of the draft genome, the researchers have found that the virus now spreading outside Africa belongs to the West African clade. According to the *New Scientist*, the virus belonging to the West African clade is mild in nature.

"The phylogenetic analysis of the draft genome indicates that the 2022 virus belongs to the West African clade and is most closely related to viruses associated with the exportation of monkeypox virus from Nigeria to several countries in 2018 and 2019, namely the United Kingdom, Israel and Singapore," write the Portuguese researchers.

And the genome sequenced from the male in Belgium appears to be closely related to the genome shared by the researchers from Portugal. "Preliminary phylogenetic analysis clearly shows that the obtained genome belongs to the West African clade of MPXV [monkeypox] and is most closely related to the recently uploaded genome from the outbreak in Portugal providing further evidence of substantial community spread in Europe," the researchers from Belgium write. The increased number of cases from multiple countries have raised concerns about enhanced human-to-human transmission of the virus. Evidence about increased human-to-human transmission, which is possible only if the virus has undergone any changes to make it easily transmissible among humans, will come from detailed genome sequence analysis.

Virus transmissibility

According to the *New Scientist*, establishing increased transmissibility of the virus that is currently circulating in Europe, the U.S. and Canada will take time as monkeypox has a "large [around 200,000 DNA letters long] and complex genome". The current outbreak outside Africa is the most widespread and also the largest till date.

According to *Nature News*, monkeypox has been detected in people who have not come in contact with those with monkeypox infection, which suggests that the virus might been spreading silently. In a statement issued on May 20, the WHO regional director for Europe too said that the "geographically dispersed nature of the cases across Europe and beyond, suggests that transmission may have been ongoing for some time". Also, except in one case, there has been no travel history to areas in West or Central Africa where the monkeypox virus is endemic.

Monkeypox usually causes very visible skin lesions and hence cannot go unnoticed. The silent spread, if true, might mean that the virus is able to also spread without causing symptoms in some infected people. If monkeypox can indeed spread asymptomatically then it would make it harder to track the virus, Andrea McCollum, an epidemiologist at CDC Atlanta told *Nature News*.

"As more samples are sequenced, it should become clear whether, as suspected, a single variant of monkeypox is responsible for all the cases in the latest outbreak," the *New Scientist* notes.

Scientists can neutralise pit viper venom

REUTERS

A substance found in fruits and vegetables can neutralise the venom of a poisonous pit viper common in much of South America, Brazilian researchers have discovered.

In Brazil, the Bothrops jararaca, also called "yarara," is responsible for most of the country's 26,000 recorded snake bites each year, according to the online Reptile Database.

The study, conducted by Sao Paulo's Butantan Institute and published in the journal *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, found that a modified version of the compound rutin, the water soluble succinyl rutin, can delay the effect of a poisonous bite. The finding could complement standard treatment with antibothropic serum, offering an emergency fix for those bitten in remote locations.

Marcelo Santoro, who coordinated the research, said the serum treats the main effects of the snakebite.

Why pangolins may not be the intermediate host

Pangolin coronavirus produced moderate disease in hamsters and was less virulent

R. PRASAD

The origin debate on novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is yet to be settled. Most indications suggest that the virus jumped across the species barrier from bats to humans either directly or through an intermediate host. There is another view that the virus might have escaped or leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology lab.

Such lab leaks had indeed happened in the past. In 2004, two researchers in a virology lab in Beijing working on the 2002 SARS virus were independently infected. The virus was transmitted to seven people in all but the outbreak was contained soon enough. A section of scientists and others believe that the SARS-CoV-2 virus might have followed the same course but went on to cause the pandemic.

No conclusive evidence

While irrefutable evidence in support of a natural origin is lacking as scientists have so far not been able to identify bats harbouring viruses very similar to the novel coronavirus to establish that the virus had indeed jumped directly from bats to humans. Nor have they been able to conclusively identify the intermediate host from where the virus jumped to humans and began spreading among people.

Under scrutiny: There are similarities in genome sequences in pangolin coronavirus and SARS-CoV-2. • GETTY IMAGES

While the SARS-CoV-2 virus is quite similar to the RATG13 coronavirus found in horseshoe bats, the genome of the two viruses have only 96% similarity. So the virus, if it had jumped from bats to humans, is yet to be identified in bats. Pangolin has been suggested as a potential intermediate host that could have harboured the coronavirus before it made the giant leap to spread among humans. Many studies have found similarity between the coronavirus in pangolin and SARS-CoV-2 virus in terms of genome sequences. A study published recently in the journal *iScience* evaluated the biological characteristics of the pangolin coronavirus. The researchers from the Beijing University of Chemical Technology studied the pathogenicity and transmissibility of pangolin coronavirus by infecting Syrian golden hamsters and compared it with hamsters infected with SARS-CoV-2.

They found that the pangolin coronavirus was not only able to effectively infect hamsters but also cause the similar kind of responses in tissues as the novel coronavirus. Though both viruses seem to have the same affinity for the receptors, the pangolin coronavirus was able to efficiently replicate in the respiratory system and brain, much like the SARS-CoV-2. However, the scientists were not able to find infectious pangolin coronavirus in organs other than the respiratory system and brain, which is different from hamsters infected by SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Hamsters infected with pangolin coronavirus did not suffer substantial loss of body, while hamsters infected with SARS-CoV-2 did show a slight reduction in body weight in the first five days of infection and then regained weight.

Pathogenesis difference

Alveolar wall thickening of lungs of hamsters infected with pangolin coronavirus was "widespread" whereas the alveolar wall thickening in hamsters infected with SARS-CoV-2 was severe. There were other differences in pathogenesis too. In all, pangolin coronavirus produced moderate disease in hamsters and was less virulent than SARS-CoV-2.

There were differences in the way the viruses replicated – SARS-CoV-2 replicated way higher in the hamsters than the pangolin coronavirus could. Viral shedding by hamsters infected with pangolin coronavirus lasted for three days, while hamsters infected with SARS-CoV-2 shed virus for five days.

The most important difference was in the route of transmission. While pangolin coronavirus did not spread via aerosols but only through contact transmission, SARS-CoV-2 showed an "efficient contact transmissibility and an efficient aerosol transmissibility with a transmission efficiency of 100%", the authors write. One reason for lack of aerosol transmission in the case of pangolin coronavirus could be because of the less viral aerosols produced by the infected hamsters. The second likely reason could be the larger size of the viral particles exhaled by hamsters infected with pangolin coronavirus. In contrast, SARS-CoV-2-infected hamsters produced significantly higher amounts of viral aerosols, they found. Also, the amount of virus particles exhaled per minute by hamsters infected with SARS-CoV-2 was nearly 2.5 times more than hamsters infected with pangolin coronavirus.

Coronavirus spread

Based on the study, the researchers conclude that the infection characteristics of pangolin coronavirus and SARS-CoV-2 are similar though the pathogenicity and transmissibility are much more in hamsters infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus. Though pangolin coronavirus spread from one hamster to another only through direct contact and not through aerosol, the "public health risk of pangolin coronavirus being potential candidates for global dissemination could not be ignored", they write. They also caution that "continual monitoring of the mutation and evolution of pangolin coronavirus should be implemented in the future, and the illegal wildlife trade of pangolins should be effectively controlled".

The study does not conclusively show that pangolins could have been the intermediate host. But the possibility of pangolin coronavirus crossing the species barrier at a future date and infecting humans cannot be ruled out.

Question Corner

Enigmatic area

Is the mantle-core boundary uniform in nature?

New research led by the University of Cambridge has found an unusual pocket of rock at the boundary layer with Earth's core, some 3,000 km beneath the surface. The enigmatic area of rock, which is located almost directly beneath the Hawaiian Islands, is one of several ultra-low velocity zones, which are so-called because earthquake waves slow to a crawl as they pass through them.

The research (*Nature Communications*) reveals the complex internal variability of one of these pockets in detail, shedding light on the landscape of Earth's deep interior.

Earth's interior is layered like an onion: at the centre sits the iron-nickel core, surrounded by a thick layer known as the mantle, and on top of that a thin outer shell – the crust we live on. Although the mantle is solid rock, it is hot enough to flow extremely slowly.

Scientists use seismic waves from earthquakes to see beneath Earth's surface –the echoes and shadows of these waves revealing radar-like images of deep interior topography. But until recently, images of the structures at the core-mantle boundary have been grainy and difficult to interpret.

The researchers used the numerical modelling methods to reveal structures at the core-mantle boundary. They observed a 40% reduction in the speed of seismic waves travelling at the base of the ultra-low velocity zone beneath Hawaii. According to the authors, this supports existing proposals that the zone contains much more iron than the surrounding rocks –meaning it is denser and more sluggish.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

'Holes' in Biodiversity Bill

What are the points of contention raised by experts on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: Rajya Sabha MP and senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has criticised the provisions of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 that is currently being reviewed by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The law was introduced in Parliament on December 16 last year by the Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, and was referred to the JPC. Mr. Ramesh is a member of the committee, whose chairperson is BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal.

What do the amendments in the Bill deal with?

■ The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was framed to give effect to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992, that strives for sustainable, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. To do this, it formulates a three-tier structure consisting of a National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the national level, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) at the State level and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at local body levels. The primary responsibility of the BMCs is to document local biodiversity and associated knowledge in the form of a People's Biodiversity Register.

The amended Bill was drafted in response to complaints by traditional Indian medicine practitioners, the seed sector, and industry and researchers that the Act imposed a heavy "compliance burden" and made it hard to conduct collaborative research and investments and simplify patent application processes. The text of the Bill also says that it proposes to "widen the scope of levying access and benefit sharing with local communities and for further conservation of biological resources." The Bill seeks to exempt registered AYUSH medical practitioners and people accessing codified traditional knowledge, among others, from giving prior intimation to State biodiversity boards for accessing biological resources for certain purposes.

According to Joint Parliamentary Committee member and senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, the amended Bill decriminalises violations, such as bio-piracy, making them civil offences, and this defeats the Biological Diversity Act, 2002's 'deterrent powers'

Environmentalist organisations such as Legal Initiative for Forests and Environment (LIFE) have said that the amendments were made to "solely benefit" the AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) Ministry and would pave the way for "bio piracy." The modifications will exempt AYUSH manufacturing companies from needing approvals from the NBA and thus will go against one of the core provisions of the Act.

What are Mr. Ramesh's objections?

■ Mr. Ramesh contended that the Environment Ministry was drawing a distinction between a registered AYUSH practitioner and a company, and exempting the former from the Act. He said this was an "artificial distinction" as nothing prevented a registered AYUSH practitioner from having informal links with a company structure. These paved the way for potential "abuse of the law," he said in a letter to Mr. Jaiswal and other committee members. Multiple provisions of the Bill, he said, were aimed at diluting the authority of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), especially the clause appointing 16 ex-officio officers of the Centre. The provision of requiring companies to seek the approval of the NBA only at the time of commercialisation, and not when applying for a patent, was of concern. The Bill also decriminalised violations, such as bio-piracy and made them civil offences, and this defeated the Act's "deterrent powers," he said.

Are there other shortcomings in the Bill?

■ An analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and the *Down To Earth* magazine on how the Biodiversity Act was being practically implemented, pointed out serious shortcomings. There was no data available – barring a few States – on the money received from companies and traders for access and benefit-sharing from use of traditional knowledge and resources. It was unclear if companies had even paid communities despite commitments. In the case of the Irula Cooperative in Tamil Nadu – traditional knowledge holders of the method of collecting snake venom used for pharmaceutical products – only one company had agreed to pay, but even that promise remained unfulfilled. State boards told *Down to Earth* that the money collected has not been disbursed to communities because there was no information available about the knowledge holders. The law says that if the information was unavailable, then funds ought to be spent on conservation in the region from where the knowledge-bioresources come. As of now, the funds were lying unutilised, according to State boards. As per law, Indian pharmaceutical companies are required to pay between 3-5% on the extracted bioresources or between 0.01-0.05% on the annual gross ex-factory sales. But companies have resisted paying. In most cases, the courts have held that these companies have to seek prior approval and make payments to the NBA or the State boards. Often, it was not clear who was required to pay, how much or what has already been paid. The proposed amendments didn't address these issues and so aren't helpful in solving the current challenges of implementation.

Why is Turkey against SweFin joining NATO?

What made Sweden and Finland, which followed a neutral foreign policy, change their position?

STANLY JOHNY

The story so far: With the Russian invasion of Ukraine nearing three months, Sweden and Finland (SweFin), the two Nordic countries that have historically stayed out of military alliances, have formally applied to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). If President Vladimir Putin ordered the Ukraine attack on February 24, apparently to prevent NATO's further expansion into Russia's neighbourhood, he is now facing the prospects of two countries joining the trans-Atlantic military alliance. But their accession into NATO may not be smooth. Turkey, a NATO member since 1952, has said it would oppose the Nordic countries joining the bloc, citing that they harbour "terrorist groups" – a reference to Kurdish insurgent outfits. Put together, these developments – the continuing war in Ukraine, fresh NATO applications, and Turkey's opposition to SweFin's bid – have shaken up Europe's delicate security equilibrium further.

What explains the long-term neutrality of Sweden and Finland?

■ The last war Sweden fought was in 1814 – the Swedish Norwegian War. Six years earlier Russia had invaded the Gotland Island in the Baltic Sea. While the Swedes drove the Russians out of the island, the latter took Finland away from Sweden while retreating. After the Swedish-Norwegian war, Sweden has adopted neutrality as the cornerstone of its foreign policy as it suited its interests better in an increasingly hostile neighbourhood. It stayed out of the two World Wars and the Cold War.

Finland's history has been more complicated. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin invaded Finland in 1939, demanding territories in the Karelian Isthmus, the strip of land situated between the Gulf of Finland and Lake Ladoga. Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) sat at the southern end of the Isthmus and Stalin wanted a buffer between Finland and the former Tsarist capital. The Finns resisted valiantly in the initial phase of the war denying an outright victory to the Red Army, but eventually agreed to sign the Moscow Peace Treaty as part of which they had to cede more territories of the Isthmus than what Stalin originally demanded. But a year later, the Finns joined hands with the German Nazis and attacked the Soviet Union.

Peace returned to the long Soviet-Finnish border only after the Nazis were defeated in the Second World War. Having suffered the after-effects of two wars, Finland did not want to get sucked into another great power contest. Like 19th century Sweden, Finland also adopted neutrality as the centrepiece of its foreign policy.

What triggered SweFin's NATO application?

■ In short, Mr. Putin's Ukraine war. While the Russians may have their explanations for the war, the invasion saw Russia violating the sovereignty of a weaker power in its neighbourhood. It also raised questions on whether Russia would have started the war had Ukraine been a NATO member.

Unlike Ukraine, Sweden and Finland do not have any border conflict with Russia. But again, Ukraine didn't have any major conflict with Russia until the 2014 regime change in Kyiv. So the Russian attack seemed to have altered the security calculus of SweFin. They moved quickly to apply for NATO membership because they hoped the alliance would act as deterrence against potential future attacks. Sweden and Finland have already developed deep ties with the West. Both are members of the European Union. Their ties with NATO are the closest two non-members could get with the alliance. They hold joint military drills with NATO, share intelligence and have supported NATO's military missions abroad. They did not formally seek membership until now because they did not want to upset the security status quo in Europe. They also feared Russian retaliation. But that status quo has been altered by the Russian invasion. And the possibility of Russian military retaliation is very less now because Russian troops are fighting a seemingly prolonged war in Ukraine.

This opened the door for both SweFin and NATO. And they are ready to embrace each other.

What's Russia's position?

■ Since the German reunification in 1990, NATO has seen five rounds of expansions. In 1999, three East European countries – Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland – became NATO members. In 2004, seven more countries – including the three Baltic nations, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, all sharing borders with Russia – were taken into the alliance. Russia has consistently opposed the bloc expanding its reach towards its neighbourhood, but was not in a position to do anything about it. In 2008, however, when Georgia and Ukraine, both Russia's neighbours and Black Sea basin countries, were offered membership, Russia responded militarily. Now, with SweFin applying for NATO membership, the bloc is coming further closer to Russia's border. Finland shares an over 1,300-km border with Russia. Sweden's Gotland island in the Baltic Sea is some 200 km away from Russia's Kaliningrad coast. But despite its concerns, Russia would not be able to do much to stop their NATO bids. Mr. Putin has sought to play down the development saying the Nordic countries joining NATO does not pose any immediate threat to his nation, but warned against NATO moving weapons to these countries. While it's not clear what Russia would do in the long term, its immediate response was to cut electricity exports and gas supplies to Finland.

Why is Turkey against SweFin's bids?

■ President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly said Turkey would oppose SweFin's NATO bid. Within NATO, decisions are taken unanimously, which means every country in the 30-member bloc holds a veto. Turkey says Sweden and Finland have ties with "terrorist" groups – a reference to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the People's Protection Units (YPG). The PKK, which seeks greater autonomy for Turkey's Kurdish minority, has waged an armed insurgency since the mid-1980s. The YPG is the armed wing of Syrian Kurdistan which controls parts of the Kurdish region in Syria. Turkey faces serious allegations of human rights violations in the Kurdish region. In recent years, Mr. Erdogan's government has cracked down on Kurdish political groups and leaders, including the left-wing People's Democratic Party (HDP). Selahattin Demirtas, a charismatic Kurdish politician who was a former legislator and presidential election candidate, has been in prison since 2016. Turkey has justified its actions, claiming that the PKK, YPG and their associated political groups are "terrorists".

Turkey says Sweden, and Finland to a certain extent, maintain close ties with Kurdish militias, particularly the YPG. It also alleges that the countries are hosting supporters of the Fethullah Gulen movement, a religious sect led by the U.S.-based Gulen who is accused by Ankara of being the mastermind behind the failed 2016 coup against Mr. Erdogan. Turkish state TV reported last week that Sweden and Finland refused to extradite 33 people wanted by Ankara. Mr. Erdogan calls Sweden "a nesting ground for terrorist organisations" and has ruled out Turkey backing SweFin's NATO entry in the future either.

What's next?

■ When Mr. Erdogan first expressed his opposition, many thought it would be a bargaining tactic. But the repeated comments from the Turkish leadership have raised alarm in NATO capitals. If Turkey walks the talk and blocks the SweFin bid, that would leave the Nordic countries in an awkward spot – they have already given up neutrality, but they won't be getting NATO's protection. Even if the application goes through, it would take time for these countries to be formally inducted into the alliance. In the case of NATO's last expansion, when North Macedonia was admitted into the alliance in March 2020, the process took 20 months. In the case of Montenegro, which became a NATO member in June 2017, the process took 18 months. So the time taken for the process to be completed offers a window to Mr. Putin, whose response would depend on whether his troops could meet their military objectives in Ukraine and whether they could do it fast. There's a lot of uncertainty. The only thing that's certain is that more instability is awaiting Europe.

Has Kerala changed its stance on NEP?

Why has there been a prolonged resistance in the State towards the National Education Policy, 2020?

SARATH BABU GEORGE

The story so far: Since the introduction of the National Education Policy, 2020 (NEP), Kerala has viewed the policy document with serious disagreements. However, two years down the line, the State has begun to warm up to some of the provisions, albeit with considerable hesitance. Despite the shift in policy, chances of a quick roll-out appear remote due to various factors. The government has hinted that the reforms might be introduced only during the 2023-24 academic year.

What prompted the State's initial apathy to NEP, 2020?

■ Entrusted by the State government to study the impacts of NEP, 2020, the Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) had constituted a committee chaired by noted economist Prabhat Patnaik which concluded that the policy is retrograde and presented an exclusionary vision of education. It also raised concerns over the possible challenges that the scheme posed for access, equity, social justice and the reservation system. The CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) also felt NEP, 2020 sought to align the country's education policy with the needs of private investment and technocapitalism, while ignoring democratic principles and the federal system. Some provisions, including the move to permit multiple entry and exit in academic programmes, were feared to legitimise dropouts. The government also claimed the proposed National Research Foundation and the Board of Governance of Higher Education Institutions would "kill the democratic spirit of universities and their autonomy".

How has the State altered its position?

■ When the LDF led by incumbent Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan returned to power with a thumping mandate in 2021, the government felt an urgent need to

overhaul the higher education sector that appeared to have stagnated in contrast to school education in the State which has constantly topped national rankings. That it emerged victorious on the poll plank of transitioning Kerala into a knowledge-based economy and arresting brain drain from the State led the government to embark on a series of reforms including relaxing its approach on academic autonomy and privatisation.

The LDF's policy shift was apparent after the recent CPI(M) State conference approved the 'Nava Keralam' vision document presented by Mr.Vijayan which mooted private investments in higher education. This was in stark contrast to the days when activists of the Students Federation of India (SFI), the student body of the CPI(M), roughed up the then KSHEC vice-chairman and former diplomat T.P. Sreenivasan after accusing him of attempting to commercialise the sector through a 'global education meet' held in 2016.

The seeds of change were sown when the previous Pinarayi Vijayan government had, in 2020, constituted a committee to explore the possibility of establishing an 'Education City' in Kerala to offer courses in collaboration with foreign universities.

Notably, the panel included an official of one of the largest private universities in the country.

How has the government's perception about the policy changed?

■ Of late, the government has begun to feel an urge to address the systemic rigidity that hindered multidisciplinary research and inter-university collaborations. Besides, there has been a growing clamour to liberate universities from the clutches of political machinations and free colleges from the overbearing influence of universities. A section of the academic community also called for relieving universities of their affiliation management chores and enabling them to focus on research. In order to address such lacunae, the LDF government has constituted three commissions to reform the higher education sector, the examination system and the statutory laws that govern universities.

What hinders its implementation?

■ Despite having adopted a pragmatic stance towards NEP, 2020, the government is yet to frame guidelines on implementing its provisions in the State. It hoped to customise the reforms to suit its ideals of affirmative action and social justice. Various logistical issues such as creating new posts that would burden the State exchequer amid the fiscal crunch have also put a spanner in the works.

What lies ahead?

■ While the Union government has maintained that the NEP, 2020 is advisory in nature, many educationists feel that the State would do well to be mindful of the carrot-and-stick approach of the University Grants Commission. The universities could be arm-twisted into implementing the provisions to avail themselves of various benefits in the future.

A.G. PERARIVALAN

A troubled past, but a fresh start

Perarivalan has seen both the harsh side of the penal system in the form of lengthy imprisonment and its potential for reform and redemption

K. VENKATARAMANAN

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Arrested at the age of 19 by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the CBI for his involvement in Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, A.G. Perarivalan (Arivu) has a life story that consists of only two phases: a short spell spent in the service of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), an association that upended his life before he was out of his teens and sent him to the brink of the gallows; and the rest is imprisonment. The whirligig of time has now taken him to a new era of freedom, and possibly a new beginning at the age of 50. He has the advantage of a largely welcoming society, and the situation is quite far from the day his lawyer in court had to plead for leniency on the ground that he was too low in the LTTE scheme of things to be a conspirator.

"He was merely an errand boy, and was following the instructions of Sivarasan, and he himself had no active role to play," argued senior advocate N. Natarajan on his behalf in the Supreme Court. The reference was to Raghuvaran alias Sivarasan, whose real name was Packiachandran, who was sent by the LTTE leadership to organise Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, and who recruited a host of sympathisers for the purpose. Given the overwhelming evidence, Arivu's defence was largely aimed at extricating him from the conspiracy and disavowing any knowledge of its objective.

The son of Gnanasekaran, a retired teacher and a poet who wrote under the pseudonym Kuyildasan, Arivu belonged to a well-known family in Jolarpet town in northern Tamil Nadu. His teens coincided with a time when sympathy for the Sri Lankan Tamil cause was at its zenith. Organised pogroms against Tamils in Sri Lanka, a huge inflow of refugees into Tamil Nadu, the despatch of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) and the commencement of hostilities between the IPKF and the LTTE, were all factors that made it a topic of great interest in the State. Circumstances so conspired that Arivu came into contact with Bhagyanathan, a co-accused who was acquitted on involvement in the conspiracy by the Supreme Court and brother of key conspirator Nalini, as well as active LTTE cadre Sriharan alias Murugan. Bhagyanathan ran a printing press for Baby Subramaniam, a high-ranking LTTE leader, in Chennai, and Arivu also began working for the organisation.

A turning point in his life came when he made a clandestine visit to Sri Lanka with Irumborai, another accused freed by the Supreme Court, and Baby Subramaniam.

The CBI said in its filings in court that Arivu met LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran. In March 1991, Arivu accompanied Murugan on a visit to Vellore Fort and prison, where some LTTE cadre were detained. Sivarasan recruited him for the Rajiv Gandhi plot in April that year. Three overt acts are attributed to Arivu during this phase: he bought a motorcycle for Sivarasan, a 12-volt car battery that was used to power a wireless set and a pair of 9-volt batteries that were ultimately used in the belt bomb that assassin Dhanu set off to kill Rajiv Gandhi and many others, including nine policemen.

While there is no doubt that Arivu was part of Sivarasan's network, doubts will linger about how much of the plan or the identity of the target was known to each member

The wireless set was a powerful one that was installed in one of the safe-houses used by the team and was recovered by the SIT from the kitchen of a house where it was buried in a pit.

Arivu attended two public meetings in the run-up to the general elections. One was in April 1991 on the Marina Beach addressed by Rajiv Gandhi and AIADMK leader J. Jayalalithaa. The next one was at Nandanam in Chennai, where former Prime Minister V.P. Singh was the main speaker. The latter was quite significant as it was a dry run for the assassination. Besides Nalini and Murugan, the assassin-to-be Dhanu and Subha, her standby, were both present.

Black book

The judgment of Justice D.P. Wadhwa notes that Arivu removed material relating to the LTTE from one place to a safer one in April 1991. During the investigation, among the objects recovered was a 'black book' "which depicted the electric circuit identical to the electric circuit in the reconstructed explosive device... used by Dhanu to trigger the blast". It then added that he was a diploma holder in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering. Even though the battery was the purported link to the assassination, the picture of the circuit found in the book may have also been a factor.

"He was under the complete domination of Sivarasan and did not understand the implications of the various jobs entrusted to him... he does not deserve the extreme penalty... being also a paid employee of the LTTE," the defence lawyer had submitted.

During the trial and appeal hearings, the portion of his confessional statement relating to the purpose of the battery was treated as evidence. Defence counsel argued that his statement that this was the battery used in the explosive device was "knowledge derived after the event", but the Supreme Court rejected it. It was many years later that a Superintendent of Police who recorded his statement made a startling admission that he had left out the "exculpatory portion" of what Arivu had said: that he purchased the battery but was unaware that it was going to be used in a bomb. The evidence related to that one overt act that could solidly prove prior knowledge of the assassination plot was now shown to be embellished or improved, leading to a widespread impression that he was innocent.

There is no doubt that he was part of the network that aided Sivarasan in his task, but doubts will always linger about how much of the conspiracy or the identity of the target was known to each member.

His entire youth has been spent in prison on a charge of such gravity that the weight of guilt, or the shock of wronged innocence, would have taken a heavy physical and mental toll of anyone. He does have a list of ailments. As a free man today, Arivu has been conversing with reporters, highlighting the role of his indefatigable mother, Aruputham, in campaigning for long years for his release, thanking lawyers and the media. Granted parole only a couple times during his nearly 31-year-long incarceration, he was out on bail in the weeks before the Supreme Court's verdict ordering his release.

Conduct in prison

Arivu's conduct in prison has been exemplary, as noted by various authorities and courts. He sought to spend his time usefully, gathering educational qualifications and skills. He developed an interest in the power of the Right to Information Act and repeatedly used it to gain insight into the workings of the remission system. It is obvious that he is being honest when he underscores that he had always had faith in the judiciary. He moved several courts and authorities from time to time. He takes pride in the fact that he once spoke over the phone with the jurist, late V.R. Krishna Iyer, and that he blessed him. He mentions even Justice (Retd.) K.T. Thomas, one of the three judges confirmed his death sentence, as one of those who supported his release in recent years.

For one who has spent long years in solitary confinement with nothing but brick walls to stare at, and for one who was an under-trial on terrorism charges for a capital offence for eight years and a death row convict for nearly 15, he does exude an absence of rancour and a mood of optimism. Perhaps, the extraordinary political support and public sympathy for his plight and misfortune have contributed to his lack of bitterness; or, perhaps, it is the assurance of freedom and the possibility that he is unlikely to face social stigma of the sort that other former prisoners face in life. He has seen the harsh side of a penal system that allows lengthy imprisonment, as well as its potential for reform and redemption, thanks to which he breathes the air of freedom.

In Focus

- As a teenager Perarivalan came into contact with Bhagyanathan, who ran a printing press for Baby Subramaniam, a high-ranking LTTE leader, and began working for the outfit.
- He was arrested and later convicted for his role in Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. He was working with Sivarasan, who was sent by the LTTE leadership to organise the assassination.
- His lawyer argued in court that he "was under the complete domination of Sivarasan and did not understand the implications of the various jobs entrusted to him..."

HARDIK PATEL

Permanent interests

The Patidar leader, who campaigned for the Congress in 2017, has left the party

MAHESH LANGA

At age 22, Hardik Patel, in 2015, challenged the mighty BJP in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home turf Gujarat by launching an agitation demanding a quota in jobs and education for his community. In doing so, he took on the then Chief Minister Anandiben Patel, a protege and successor of Mr. Modi.

The agitation by Gujarat's most affluent Patidar community not only exposed the ruptures in the Gujarat model that was marketed globally but also defanged the State government, barely a year after Mr. Modi's exit in May 2014. The State-wide agitation ended in violence in which 14 members of the Patidar community were killed in police firing. There were clashes between police officers and protesters, government vehicles were torched and public properties damaged.

Mr. Patel, convener of the Patidar Ananmat Andolan Samiti (PAAS), became a hero of Patidars overnight.

As the State recovered from the bruises of the agitation, Mr. Patel and his aides, mostly youngsters who demanded the Patidars to be included in the OBC category or an end to the quota system altogether, were arrested. The police slammed them with sedition cases in Ahmedabad and Surat.

Mr. Patel was granted bail by the High Court after nine months of incarceration with a condition that he would spend six months out of Gujarat. In January 2017, he returned to his home State. But in the meantime, Anandiben Patel, who is from the Patidar community, was replaced by Vijay Rupani, a Jain from Rajkot who was also a protege of Amit Shah. Also, the BJP had successfully split Mr. Patel's agitation with many of his aides distancing themselves from their leader.

But that didn't stop Mr. Patel from chasing his ambitions. In the run-up to the 2017 assembly polls, he grew closer to the Congress. He attended massive public rallies asking the voters, especially the Patidar community, to vote against the BJP. The BJP managed to retain Gujarat, but with a reduced majority. It won 99 of the 182 seats, its lowest tally since 1995.

"What he did in 2017 was sort of a betrayal and what he is doing now is the same," said Varun Patel, a close aide, who had parted ways with him in 2017 and had joined the BJP. In 2019, in the run-up to the parliamentary polls, he formally joined the Congress. But his entry failed to have any impact on the results as the BJP swept all the 26 Lok Sabha seats in the State. A year later, Mr. Patel was appointed as the working president of the Gujarat Congress Committee.

Upcoming election

As the State stares at another assembly election in six months, the young Patidar leader is in news again as he quit the Congress. Speculation is rife that he is most likely to join the BJP in the coming days.

"We have to remember that the BJP and the Prime Minister enacted a law to give a 10 per cent quota to the economically weaker sections of upper castes; they have also taken other measures to help people belonging to upper castes but are financially weak," Mr. Patel told reporters a day after resigning from the Congress. "His ambition has no limits. He used the entire community to become a hero and now he will join the BJP to fulfill his ambition. He shows no commitment or no ideology," said Congress legislator Lalit Vasoya, who was one of the key players of the Patidar agitation in 2015.

However, after leaving the Congress, Mr. Patel slammed the party for "not allowing" any powerful Patidar leader to rise in Gujarat. He cited the cases of late CM Chimanbhai Patel, who was removed from the party in the early 1970s, Narhari Amin, who left the Congress in 2012 after he was denied a ticket and late Vithal Radadia, who left the party and joined the BJP.

But the Congress shot back. "He did not like that a person from the OBC community was made the party president in Gujarat [Jagdish Thakor]; a tribal leader was made leader of the opposition [Sukhram Rathva] in the State assembly; and a Dalit legislator, Jignesh Mevani, became an important figure in the Congress set-up," said Raghu Sharma, the AICC-in-charge of Gujarat.

While Mr. Patel is looking for a fresh political start, it will be prudent of him to remember that being a successful agitation leader is no guarantee that you will become a successful political figure, particularly in a State where caste and communal equations have always played a key role in politics.

AZOVSTAL STEELWORKS

Fall of the last holdout

Russia takes full control of Mariupol after Ukraine troops surrender at steel mill

G. SAMPATH

April 21 was a significant day for the war raging in Ukraine. Although the Russians had captured most of Mariupol by end-March, they were unable to claim victory. The Ukrainians continued to hold on to a major asset that played a key role in Mariupol's economy: Azovstal Iron and Steel Works.

The sprawling industrial complex, which employed more than 10,000 workers and covered 11 sq. km in the port city's water front, had seen fierce fighting for weeks. It was with the aim of claiming total control over the city that the Russians had mounted a brutal siege of the steel plant, subjecting it to intense artillery fire, aerial bombardment, and missile strikes.

Ukraine had sent some of its best fighters to defend Mariupol, including the 36th Marine Brigade and the National Guard's Azov Regiment. More than 2,000 of them had made the Azovstal steel plant their last stand. They used the plant's vast network of underground tunnels and passages – estimated to be 24 km long – to frequently shift their positions and surprise the Russians. It was in this context that on April 21, in a televised meeting with Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, President Vladimir Putin announced a change in strategy: Russia will no longer attempt to 'capture' the Azovstal steel plant. Instead, Mr. Putin instructed Mr. Shoigu to seal off the industrial complex so that "not even a fly could get through". The rest of Mariupol was already in their control. So Russia might as well wait it out until the trapped Ukrainians ran out of supplies, and when that happens, they would have no choice but to surrender. The calculation proved to be accurate.

Soviet-era structure

The Azovstal steel plant, a Soviet-era structure inaugurated in 1933, has seen military action before – it was captured by the Nazis in 1941 and they left it in ruins when they withdrew in 1943. But it was quickly rebuilt and became one of the largest metallurgical facilities in Europe, producing 4 million tonnes of crude steel annually. Crucially, like many large factories of the Soviet era, it had well-stocked bunkers that could accommodate 4,000 people.

But this April, as Russia sealed off the complex, those inside began to run out of food, water and medical supplies. Apart from the Ukrainian soldiers, there were also civilians inside. The Russian border is barely 60 km from Mariupol. When Moscow launched its 'special military operation' on February 24, thousands of Mariupol residents – many of them family members of plant workers – fled to the safety of its bunkers. Most of them had assumed that they were going to stay there for a few days. But as the Russian siege went on, the civilians remained trapped.

Diplomatic efforts were made to negotiate their evacuation. After several false starts, all women and children were evacuated by May 8. Ukrainian soldiers and male civilians remained trapped inside, and with supplies running low, they appealed to President Volodymyr Zelensky for help, in vain. Finally, on May 16, the Ukrainian military ordered the commanders in Azovstal "to save the lives of the personnel". Official statements avoided the term 'surrender'. Over the following days, according to the Russian military, a total of 1,730 Ukrainian troops surrendered and were taken to camps in territories controlled by Russia.

Although the military significance of the Russian victory at the Azovstal plant is limited, it does hold great value in ideological and psychological terms. In the preceding weeks, the site had become a symbol of Ukrainian resistance. There were widely circulated reports of Ukrainian soldiers preferring "death by combat" and "fighting to the last man" rather than laying down arms in front of the Russians. In this context, the Ukrainian surrender would be invaluable fodder for Russian propaganda. The Ukrainian military, however, has maintained that its troops at the Azovstal plant had successfully completed their "combat mission", which was to keep a large number of Russian troops bogged down in Mariupol so that they could not be deployed to other, more critical, battle fronts.

While the fate of these Ukrainian soldiers remains uncertain, there is little doubt that Moscow is now closer than ever to achieving its objective of securing a land bridge from Russia to Crimea.

Rural food price gains hastened in April

CPI for agricultural and rural workers increased by 10 points each; labour expert warns of 'distress'

A.M. JIGEESH
NEW DELHI

Rising food prices spurred an increase of 10 points each in the all-India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for agricultural and rural labourers, respectively, last month, the Ministry of Labour said in a release on Saturday.

An increase in the prices of rice, wheat-atta, jowar, bajra, ragi, vegetables and fruits contributed the bulk of the spike in the two indices with April's CPI-AL rising to 1108 points and the CPI-RL climbing to 1119. The food group contributed 7.32 and 7.13 points, respectively, to the 10 point jumps in the CPI-AL and CPI-RL.

The year-on-year inflation rate based on the CPI-AL quickened to 6.44% last month, from 6.09% in March and compared with the 2.66% pace in April 2021. In the case of the CPI-RL, the rate accelerated to 6.67%, from 6.33% in the preceding month and 2.94% in the year-earlier period.

On a high: The rise in prices of vegetables, fruits, rice, wheat, jowar, bajra and ragi accounted for a bulk of the spike. • V. RAJU

In March 2022, the increase was just three points each in both the indices.

Nineteen States recorded an increase of between one to 20 points in the CPI-AL index. Tamil Nadu, which recorded a decrease of 7 points from March, "topped the table with 1,275 points, whereas Himachal Pradesh with 880 points stood at the bottom," the Ministry said.

'Rural distress'

Representatives of agricultural and rural workers urged immediate intervention by the Centre to help ease the rising rural distress.

"If this trend continues, there is no doubt that it will make the existing agricultural distress more painful for the workers and farmers," said S.K. Sasikumar, former senior fellow at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute. "The Periodic Labour Force Survey data showed that there was an increase in agricultural employment during the pandemic as a large number of migrant workers went back to their villages. If we are unable to constrain this trend, it will have a negative impact on local development and the local employmentscenario," he added.

B. Venkat, General Secretary of the All India Agriculture Workers Union noted that agricultural and rural workers spent 50% of their income on food items such as foodgrains and edible oil.

"The rise in prices will have an adverse impact on the rural poor, particularly Dalits and Adivasis. They have reduced purchases of many food items and this has an impact on their health," he said.

Urging the Centre to directly transfer ₹7,500 in cash to the families of all rural and agricultural workers, Mr. Venkat called for a doubling in the allocation of foodgrains to poor families.

Fertilizer subsidy to rise by ₹1.10 lakh cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Amid a sharp increase in global prices of fertilizers, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government would provide an additional fertilizer subsidy of ₹1.10 lakh crore to further cushion farmers from the price rise.

With this, the government's total fertilizer subsidy is likely to touch a record ₹2.15 lakh crore in the current 2022-23 fiscal.

"Despite rising fertilizer prices globally, we have protected our farmers from such price hikes. In addition to the fertilizer subsidy of ₹1.05 lakh crore in the Budget, an additional amount of ₹1.10 lakh crore is being provided to further cushion our farmers," the Minister tweeted.

FPIs dumped ₹35,000 cr. equities in May so far

Fed rate-hike prospects spook investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Exodus of foreign money from the Indian equity markets continues unabated with FPIs pulling out more than ₹35,000 crore so far this month on concerns over the prospects of more aggressive rate hike by the U.S. Fed and appreciation of the dollar.

With this, net outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) from equities reached ₹1.63 lakh crore so far in 2022.

Volatility to stay

Going ahead, FPIs flow in India is to remain volatile in the near term, given the headwinds in terms of elevated crude prices, inflation, tight monetary policy, among others, said Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities.

"Since the mother market, U.S., is weak and dollar is strengthening, FPIs are likely to continue selling in the near term," V. K. Vijayakumar, Cheif Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

FPIs also withdrew a net amount of ₹6,133 crore from the debt market.

India will soon have eVTOLs for urban air mobility: Scindia

'In talks with eVTOL tech producers in U.S. and Canada'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

India will see the deployment of electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft to ensure urban air mobility in the days to come, said Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister for Civil Aviation.

"We are already in conversations with a number of eVTOL technology producers in the U.S. and Canada. To start with, newer aviation technologies are being adopted by the Army and the Air Force. Once they become proofs of concept... that is when they permeate into the civil space," he said. The U.S. Airforce and the Canadian Airforce were currently conducting trials around eVTOLS, and as soon as they get regulatory certifications, India would rope in manufacturers who would set up eVTOL manufacturing bases here, said Mr. Scindia. "eVTOLs, that's the picture I look at when I think of infrastructure in the year 2047 as far as mobility in the country is concerned," the Minister added.

India would rope in makers to set up eVTOL bases, says Mr. Scindia. • AFP

> **eVTOLs, that's the picture I see when I think of mobility infrastructure in the year 2047**
>
> JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA
> Union Minister for Civil Aviation

Mr. Scindia was speaking at India @ 2047, a part of the 7th edition of India Ideas Conclave organised by India Foundation, a think tank, here on Saturday.

BHEL returned to black, posted ₹912-cr. net in Q4

Total income rises to ₹8,182 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

State-owned engineering firm BHEL on Saturday returned to the black, posting ₹912.47 crore consolidated net profit in the March quarter, backed by higher income.

The company had reocrded a loss of ₹1,036.32 crore a year earlier, according to a regulatory filing. Total income during January-March rose to ₹8,181.72 crore from ₹7,245.16 crore.

Expenses drop

Expenses dipped to ₹7,091.29 crore compared with ₹8,644.28 crore a year earlier. The board of the company also approved a final dividend of ₹0.40 per share for FY22.

"The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic globally caused disturbance and slowdown of economic activity," Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) said.

"It impacted the company's operations during the FY2021-22, which recouped progressively," the electrical engineering firm added.

'India may rank second in construction gear by 2030'

Infra growth in 5-10 years will drive trend: Volvo's Jernberg

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

India is poised to become the second-largest player in the Construction Equipment (CE) industry behind China by 2030, as the country is bound to witness 'quantum growth' in infrastructure development projects in the next 5-10 years, said Melker Jernberg, executive vice-president, Volvo Group.

"With a solid push from the government's ambitious infrastructure development plans like National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development, National Monetisation Pipeline and Gatishakti, India will rise to [be] a key player, the second-largest in the CE sector by 2030," he said.

Melker Jernberg

Production, demand and the supply chain had seen significant impact following the pandemic and had to cut costs, Mr. Jernberg said.

The widening supply-demand gap added to its woes, with material and logistics costs surging. The sector also saw an unusual rise in demand and huge supply-side constraints simultaneously

India had seen a drop in demand in FY22 mainly due to factors such as pre-buys in the last quarter of the previous fiscal in connection with emission-regulation change; the second wave of COVID-19; lower road-construction rate in the second half of 2021; and, higher raw material costs spurring prices, said Mr. Jernberg.

However, both domestic and export volumes had grown over the previous year for Volvo's CE business, he added.

Govt. tweaks duties to aid steel sector reduce costs

Waives import duty on some inputs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government has waived customs duty on the import of some raw materials, including coking coal and ferronickel, used by the steel industry, a move that will lower costs for the domestic industry and reduce prices.

Also, to increase domestic availability, the duty on exports of iron ore has been raised up to 50%, and that for a few steel intermediaries to 15%, according to a notification.

'Tax on exports raised'

The changes will take effect on Sunday. The import duty on ferronickel, coking coal and PCI coal has been cut from 2.5%, while that on coke and semi-coke has come down from 5% to 'nil'.

The tax on the export of iron ores and concentrates has been increased to 50%, from 30%, while for iron pellets, a 45% duty has been imposed.

"This will result in reduction of cost of final products," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tweeted.

AMRG & Associates senior partner Rajat Mohan said the cut in import duties on these products would help arrest high inflation.

Paytm parent forms insurance joint venture

One97 to invest ₹950 cr. over 10 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Digital financial services firm One97 Communications, which operates under Paytm brand, on Saturday said it has formed a joint venture general insurance firm in which it has committed to invest ₹950 crore over a period of 10 years.

The proposal to set up joint venture firm Paytm General Insurance Limited (PGIL) was approved by the board on May 20, the company said in a filing.

Initially, One97 Communications (OCL) will hold a 49% in PGIL while the rest of the 51% stake is to be owned by OCL's managing director Vijay Shekhar Sharma owned and controlled company VSS Holding Private Limited (VHPL).

Post the investment, Paytm will hold 74% stake in PGIL, reducing VHPL's stake in the company to 26%.

"PGIL intends to register for and undertake general insurance business," One97 said. "PGIL is yet to commence its general insurance business, which is presently subject to receipt of certificate of registration from IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)," the company said in the filing.

China+1, an opportunity for Indian firms: Wheels India MD

India must, however, quickly scale up capabilities, capacities

K. BHARAT KUMAR
CHENNAI

Simmering U.S.-China trade tensions, pandemic-induced supply chain disruptions and China's zero-COVID policy that hit container availability, freight rates and lead times have all converged to spur the 'China+1' strategy for many global companies, said Srivats Ram, managing director, Wheels India.

'China+1' denotes the strategy of having an alternative supplier. "Not only companies in the U.S. but also Europe, which had been sourcing from China, have been forced to look at other locations," he said.

He was speaking to *The Hindu* on global opportunities now open to Indian firms. This presented a 'great' opportunity for the Indian manufacturers in core sectors such as auto and auto components, engineering-related products and chemicals where 'a new world of opportunities' has opened up. Indian firms, which had previously looked primarily at the domestic market for their business, will now have to see exports as a separate business opportunity and invest in exclusive capacity.

Srivats Ram

"What is encouraging is that manufacturing has been constrained more by supply-related issues than demand-related ones," he pointed out. "If India can quickly scale up capabilities and capacities, I do believe that there will be big opportunities to gain from China + 1 to actually make it an India+1 model in the future."

"Even if growth rates aren't as high as those seen in China in the 1990s and 2000s, there still is a great opportunity for Indian firms in terms of scaling; India could still replicate the China success story," he added.

IndiGrid Q4 net jumps 45% to ₹99.8 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Infrastructure investment trust IndiGrid has posted a more than 45% rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹99.8 crore in the March quarter, mainly on the back of higher revenues.

The consolidated net profit of India Grid Trust (IndiGrid) was ₹68.7 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2021, a regulatory filing showed.

Total income in the quarter under review rose to ₹568.50 crore, from ₹514.09 crore a year ago.

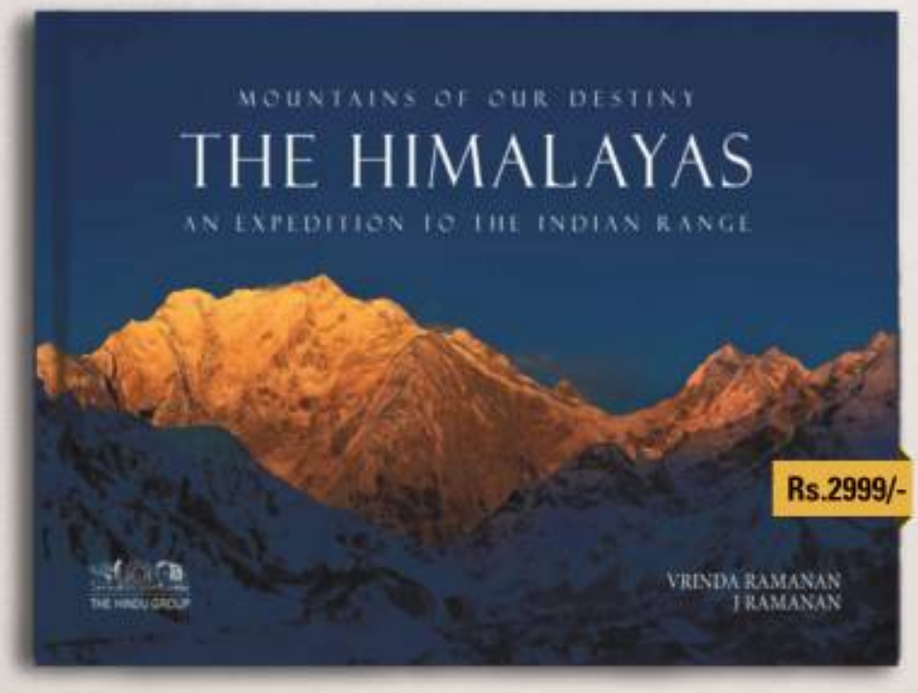
The consolidated net profit in the fiscal 2021-22 also rose to ₹343.27 crore, from ₹334.40 crore in 2020-21.

Total income in the fiscal surged to ₹2,274.44 crore, from ₹1,714.15 crore.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

MOUNTAINS OF OUR DESTINY
THE HIMALAYAS
AN EXPEDITION TO THE INDIAN RANGE



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Mumbai knocks Delhi out, sends Royal Challengers through

Bumrah & Co. restrict Capitals to 159 before Ishan, Brevis and David power the chase; Rohit's side finishes the season on a high

IPL 2022

ASHWIN ACHAL
MUMBAI

Delhi Capitals crashed out of the tournament after a five-wicket loss to Mumbai Indians in its final IPL group stage encounter at the Wankhede Stadium here on Saturday.

Capitals' loss allowed Royal Challengers Bangalore (16 points) to grab a playoff spot. As Mumbai Indians moved closer to victory, the fans replaced their 'Mumbai' chants with 'RCB, RCB'.

Set a target of 160, Mumbai Indians stuttered to 27 for one at the end of the Power-Play. The home team only got going in the 10th over, bowled by Kuldeep Yadav, when Ishan Kishan (48, 35b, 3x4, 4x6) and Dewald Brevis (37, 33b, 1x4, 3x6) cut loose.

Tilak Varma (21, 17b, 1x4, 1x6) and Tim David (34, 11b, 2x4, 4x6) then stepped on the gas. David, in particular, was brutal in his approach. Going at a strike rate of over 300, he was instrumental in pulling the asking rate down. By the time Shardul Thakur took David out, Mumbai was within touching distance of victory.

Taking flight: Bumrah tied the Capitals batters in knots before David swung the game Mumbai Indians' way. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Pant's blunder

Rishabh Pant blundered when he decided not to review a nick behind off the very first ball David faced. With two reviews at his disposal, it was perplexing why the Capitals captain did not opt for the DRS. David's explosive second life meant that this blunder cost Capitals a playoff spot.

Earlier, a fine bowling performance helped Mumbai Indians restrict Capitals. Pacer Jasprit Bumrah was the most effective, taking three crucial wickets. He struck in the fourth over, inducing an edge from Mitchell Marsh. The Australian, who made fifties in his previous two outings, went for a golden duck.

Prithvi Shaw (24, 23b, 2x4, 1x6) was stung by a searing Bumrah bouncer which tailed back in towards the throat. Shaw fended uncomfortably, lost balance, and popped the ball to the wicketkeeper.

Pant (39, 33b, 4x4, 1x6) and Rovman Powell (43, 34b, 1x4, 4x6) rebuilt the innings with a 75-run fifth-wicket stand. Pant played a patient hand, while Powell showed intent by hitting spinner Hrithik Shokeen for two sixes over mid-wicket in the 12th over. The stand was broken when Pant chased and nicked a wide delivery from medium-pacer Ramandeep Singh.

Special one

Bumrah returned to the attack and struck Powell's off-stump. The pinpoint yorker proved to be too good for Powell, who brought his bat down too late.

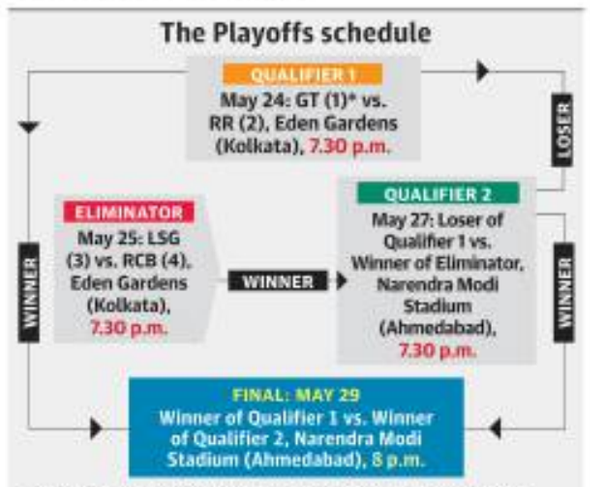
Axar Patel smashed a couple of maximums to add some substance to the Capitals total. Delhi was helped by some sloppy Mumbai fielding.

Ramandeep went for 29 runs off two overs, but picked up two wickets. Leg-spinner Mayank Markande was economical, finishing with tidy figures of one for 26 in his four overs.

Innings scan

DC		MI
52	Dots	50
8	Fours	9
9	Sixes	12
37/3	PP	27/1
7.95	RR	8.34

The Playoffs schedule


QUALIFIER 1
May 24: GT (1)* vs. RR (2), Eden Gardens (Kolkata), 7.30 p.m.
LOSER
ELIMINATOR
May 25: LSG (3) vs. RCB (4), Eden Gardens (Kolkata), 7.30 p.m.
WINNER
QUALIFIER 2
May 27: Loser of Qualifier 1 vs. Winner of Eliminator, Narendra Modi Stadium (Ahmedabad), 7.30 p.m.
WINNER
WINNER
FINAL: MAY 29
Winner of Qualifier 1 vs. Winner of Qualifier 2, Narendra Modi Stadium (Ahmedabad), 8 p.m.

** Numbers in brackets indicate the position of the team after the league phase*

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	14	10	4	20	0.316
Rajasthan Royals (Q)	14	9	5	18	0.298
Lucknow Super Giants (Q)	14	9	5	18	0.251
Royal Challengers Bangalore (Q)	14	8	6	16	-0.253
Delhi Capitals (E)	14	7	7	14	0.204
Kolkata Knight Riders (E)	14	6	8	12	0.146
Punjab Kings (E)	13	6	7	12	-0.043
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	13	6	7	12	-0.230
Chennai Super Kings (E)	14	4	10	8	-0.203
Mumbai Indians (E)	14	4	10	8	-0.506

After the MI-DC match on May 21 — *Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated*

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

Prithvi Shaw c Kishan b Bumrah 24 *(23b, 2x4, 1x6)*, David Warner c Bumrah b Sams 5 *(6b, 1x4)*, Mitchell Marsh c Rohit b Bumrah 0 *(1b)*, Rishabh Pant c Kishan b Ramandeep 39 *(33b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Sarfaraz Khan c Kishan b Markande 10 *(7b, 1x6)*, Rovman Powell b Bumrah 43 *(34b, 1x4, 4x6)*, Axar Patel (not out) 19 *(10b, 2x6)*, Shardul Thakur c David b Ramandeep 4 *(5b)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-2, w-8): 14; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 159.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-21 (Warner, 2.6 overs), 2-22 (Marsh, 3.2), 3-31 (Shaw, 5.4), 4-50 (Sarfaraz, 8.4), 5-125 (Pant, 15.6), 6-143 (Powell, 18.2), 7-151 (Shardul, 19.3).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Sams 4-0-30-1, Shokeen 4-0-34-0, Bumrah 4-0-25-3, Markande 4-0-26-1, Meredith 2-0-9-0, Ramandeep 2-0-29-2.

MUMBAI INDIANS

Ishan Kishan c Warner b Kuldeep Yadav 48 *(35b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Rohit Sharma c Shardul b Nortje 2 *(13b)*, Dewald Brevis b Shardul 37 *(33b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Tilak Varma c Pant b Nortje 21 *(17b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Tim David c Shaw b Shardul 34 *(11b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Ramandeep Singh (not out) 13 *(6b, 2x4)*, Daniel Sams (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-3, nb-1): 5; Total (for five wkts. in 19.1 overs): 160.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-25 (Rohit, 5.2), 2-76 (Kishan, 11.3), 3-95 (Brevis, 14.3), 4-145 (David, 17.5), 5-155 (Tilak, 18.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Khaleel 3.1-0-24-0, Nortje 4-0-37-2, Shardul 3-0-32-2, Marsh 2-0-7-0, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-33-1, Axar 3-0-26-0.

Toss: MI; **MoM:** Bumrah.

MI won by five wickets with five balls to spare.

Kings and Sunrisers meet for bragging rights

ASHWIN ACHAL
MUMBAI

Punjab Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad will engage at the Wankhede Stadium here on Saturday with nothing more than pride at stake.

Both teams are out of contention for playoff spots. Punjab (12 points) could have stayed in contention if not for a 17-run loss to Delhi Capitals in its previous outing.

Mayank Agarwal and his men made heavy weather of a modest 160-run target set by DC, and exited the tournament.

Tough questions

Mayank and head coach Anil Kumble will face tough questions on why the unit failed to make the cut despite possessing genuine match-winners like Jonny Bairstow, Shikhar Dhawan, Liam Livingstone, Kagiso Rabada among others.

For SRH, after a promising start to the campaign, it all went pear-shaped in the latter stages.

SRH lost five of its last six matches to undo all the good work put in.

A close three-run win over Mumbai Indians on Tuesday proved to be too little too late.

TODAY'S MATCH

SRH vs. PBKS

WANKHEDE, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 19

SRH 13 | PBKS 6

PREVIOUS MEETING

SRH won by seven wickets, 2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Vintage Anand wins title

Anand.

SPORTS BUREAU

Viswanathan Anand made his comeback to elite competitions memorable by winning the rapid section of the Grand Chess Tour Superbet chess tournament at Warsaw on Saturday.

Anand ensured the title with a round to spare after his nearest challenger Richard Rapport lost to Wesley So in the eighth and penultimate round.

Anand scored 14 points from a maximum of 18 after nine rounds.

On the final day, Anand defeated last-man David Gavrilescu, drew with Fabiano Caruana and lost to Rapport.

Final standings (rapid):

1. Viswanathan Anand (14 points), 2. Richard Rapport (Hun, 13), 3. Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol, 12), 4. Wesley So (USA, 11), 5. Levon Aronian (USA, 10), 6. Fabiano Caruana (USA, 9), 9. Radoslaw Wojtaszek (Pol, 7), 8. Kirill Shevchenko (Ukr, 7), 9. Anton Korobov (Ukr, 5); 10. David Gavrilescu (Rom, 2).

Praggs on course

After two back-to-back defeats spread over two days, R. Praggnanandhaa bounced back into contention for a quarterfinal berth by beating Canada's Eric Hansen in the 10th round of the Chessable Masters online rapid tournament on Saturday.

Praggnanandhaa was placed sixth with 15 points (out of 30) while Magnus Carlsen (21) displaced overnight leader Wei Yi (19) at the top.

With five rounds to go, P. Harikrishna (12) was placed eighth while Vidit (11) was 11th.

Aboobacker makes the cut for World championships

Karthik hits 17.1m, but falls four centimetres short of the qualifying mark

SPORTS BUREAU
BHUBANESWAR

The men's triple jump was expected to be the only exciting event at the third Indian Grand Prix here on Saturday and it lived up to the billing with two new entrants to the 17-metre club and a World Championships qualifier to boot.

Abdulla Aboobacker was among those on the verge of making the cut and the youngster duly delivered. Aboobacker's fifth jump was an impressive 17.19m, clearing the Worlds qualifying mark of 17.14m. He knew he had done it the moment the white flag was raised, signalling a fair jump and, mission accomplished, the elated 26-year old skipped his final jump. Aboobacker's previous best was 16.84m and he had a wind-assisted 16.81 this year. But Saturday's attempt made him one of only four Indian men to cross the 17-metre mark.

The fourth member was his Kerala statemate and competitor Karthik Unnikrishnan, who kept pushing himself before managing a 17.10m jump in his final attempt. It was enough to put him in elite company, but fell agonisingly short by four centimetres of the Worlds qualifying mark. The performance, however, would have given Karthik the belief of making the cut at the inter-state meet next month. Renjith Maheshwary and Arpinder Singh are the other two in the 17m club.

The results: Men: 200m: 1. Akshay Shetty (Mah, 21.86s), 2. Aryan Ekka (Odi, 21.87s), 3. Amiya Mallick (Odi, 22.00s); **800m:** 1. Krishan Kumar (Har, 1:47.92), 2. Ankesh Chaudhary (HP, 1:48.14), 3. Pradeep Senthil Kumar (TN, 1:49.01); **5000m:** 1. Abhishek Pal (UP, 14:27.59), 2. kaertik Kumar (UP, 14:27.73), 3. Gulveer Singh (UP, 14:27.82); **110m Hurdles:** 1. Yashwant Kumar Laveti (AP, 14.61s), 2. Prem Kumar (TN, 14.70s), 3. Veeramani P (TN, 14.83s); **High jump:** 1. Sarvesh Kushare (Mah, 2.21m), 2. Jesse Sandesh (Kar, 2.18m), 3. Swadhin Kumar Majhi (Odi, 2.05m); **Triple jump:** 1. Abdulla Aboobacker (Ker, 17.19m), 2. Karthik U (Ker, 17.10m), 3. Eldhose Paul (Ker, 16.87m); **Shot put:** 1. Karanveer Singh (Pun, 19.67m), 2. Inderjeet Singh (Har, 17.99m), 3. Dhanvir Singh (Pun, 17.87m); **Pole vault:** 1. Dheenadayalan G (TN, 4.60m), 2. Bineesh Jacob (Ker, 4.40m), 3. Manish Singh (Har, 4.40m).

Women: 200m: 1. Srabani Nanda (Odi, 24.04s), 2. Sonia (Har, 24.82s), 3. Rajashree P. (Ben, 25.00s); **800m:** 1. Lili Das (WB, 2:10.72), 2. Snehlata Yadav (UP, 2:17.26), 3. Laxmipriya Kisan (Odi, 2:17.39); **5000m:** 1. Sanjivani Jadhav (Mah, 15.56.74), 2. Kavita Yadav (UP, 16.38.05), 3. Arati Patil (Mah, 18:29.26); **100m Hurdles:** 1. C. Kanimozhi (TN, 14.09s), 2. S. Srireshma (TN, 14.60s), 3. Priya Gupta (Mah, 15.38s); **High jump:** 1. Gracena Merly (TN, 1.75m), 2. Rubina Yadav (Har, 1.75m); **Triple jump:** 1. Mallala Anusha (AP, 12.90m), 2. Poorva Sawant (Mah, 12.60m), 3. Sharvari Parulekar (Mah, 12.26m); **Shot put:** 1. Manpreet Kaur (Har, 16.81m), 2. Abha Khatua (Mah, 16.60m), 3. Kachnar Chaudhary (Raj, 14.99m); **Discus:** 1. Navjeet Kaur Dhillon (Pun, 58.03m), 2. Seema Punia (UP, 55.97m), 3. Nidhi Rani (Har, 52.63m); **Hammer:** 1. Sarita Singh (UP, 61.41m), 2. Sneha Jadhav (Mah, 51.46m), 3. Sneha (Har, 36.64m).

Punching a ticket: Aboobacker sealed a berth for the 2022 Eugene World championships. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

'There's no fixed target for any specific event'

Hopeful of crossing 90m this year: Neeraj

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

Interacting with Neeraj Chopra is always refreshing. Stardom sits easy on the 25-year-old who speaks with as much clarity as he trains and competes and there is always something new in his answers to even the most cliched questions.

On Saturday, from his training base in Turkey, the Olympic gold medallist outlined his immediate targets and challenges and neither of them had anything to do with the competition.

"There is no fixed target for any specific event, I try not to take that pressure on myself. Yes, there is the aim of crossing 90m and I am hopeful it will happen this year but there is no deadline to it – definitely not in the first event of the season itself," Neeraj was candid in his first media interaction this year with a select group of journalists.

Neeraj is expected to get back into competition for the first time since the Tokyo Olympics at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland on June 14. "Whether there is any additional pressure or there is any change in my performance will be known only when I step into competition. But so far in training there is no difference. It is going as per our plans and schedule. I always believe how you train is reflected in how you compete."

Asked about reigning world champion Anderson Peters throwing 93m plus recently, Neeraj was unruffled.

"It's never about breaking records or beating someone but doing your best to improve yourself."

Neeraj. • FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Djokovic and Nadal bid to derail Alcaraz express

Swiatek the overwhelming favourite

ROLAND-GARROS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, with 41 Grand Slam titles between them, will attempt to derail the growing hype surrounding teenage sensation Carlos Alcaraz at Roland Garros from Sunday.

All three have been placed in the top-half of the draw, meaning only one will make the Roland Garros final. Defending champion Djokovic is seeded to face 13-time winner Nadal in the quarterfinals. Alcaraz is a potential semifinal opponent.

Greek World No. 4 Tsitsipas has enjoyed a solid clay season. He defended his Monte Carlo title before making the last-eight in Barcelona, semifinals in Madrid and final in Rome.

In the women's draw, Iga Swiatek is the overwhelming favourite for a second title after winning her past five tournaments, but says she won't be "heartbroken" if her 28-match unbeaten run comes to an end.

Djokovic starts his campaign against 94th-ranked Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan.

Nadal has played down concerns over the chronic foot issue that resurfaced in Rome last week.

"There is nothing to recover," said Nadal. "What happened in Rome is something that happened very often during practice."

Alcaraz, 19, has rocketed to six in the world on the back of four titles in 2022. He won a second Masters title in Madrid, sweeping Nadal, Djokovic and Zverev on the way.

"He definitely is special," admitted Djokovic of Alcaraz who also claimed the prestigious Miami Masters earlier in the year.

Alcaraz was ranked 97 this time last year.

Since the shock retirement of World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty, the 20-year-old Swiatek has swept aside all-comers and transformed herself into the player to beat in women's tennis.

The Pole hasn't lost since falling to another former Roland Garros champion, Jelena Ostapenko, in Dubai in February.

Her winning streak is the longest on the WTA tour since Serena Williams won 34 matches in a row in 2013.

The numbers game

1 First time Swiatek, the 2020 Roland-Garros champion, will enter a Slam as the Women's World No. 1

1 Alcaraz can become the first teenager to win a men's Major since Nadal (2005 French Open)

1 Four-time Grand Slam champion Osaka will be unseeded for the first time since the 2018 Australian Open

2 The 19-year-olds in Alcaraz (No. 6) and Holger Rune (No. 40) are the only teenagers in the ATP top-100. There are seven in the WTA, including 2021 US Open champion Raducanu

3 A third title in Paris for No.1 Djokovic can make him the first man to win each of the four Majors at least thrice.

14 Nadal will be aiming for a record-extending 14th title at Roland-Garros and his 22nd Grand Slam overall

21 Djokovic will be gunning for his 21st Major that will help pull level with Nadal in the all-time tally

28 Coming into the French Open, Swiatek is on a 28-match winning streak that has brought five straight titles

> The world has changed, for sure. But I feel like I'm staying the same player and the same person. Still I feel like there is a lot to improve. This is my base that I'm leaning on
>
> SWIATEK

> There are players in better shape than me. But you never know what can happen. Same happened in Australia, and I put myself in a position to have a chance. And here is no different
>
> NADAL

Sunday's picks

MEN

3-Zverev vs. Ofner
6-Alcaraz vs. Londero
9-Auger-Aliassime vs. Varillas
Thiem vs. Dellien

WOMEN

6-Jabeur vs. Linette
4-Sakkari vs. Burel
10-Muguruza vs. Kanepi
Stephens vs. Niemeier

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1, MTV & Jio TV, 6 a.m.
Badminton: Thailand Open, Sports 18 & Voot Select, 10.30 a.m.
Roland Garros 2022: Sony Ten 2 & Ten 3 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 1.30 p.m. onwards
Serie A: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1 & Jio TV, 4 p.m., 9 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
F1: Spanish GP, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8.30 p.m.
La Liga: Sports 18, Voot Select, MTV & Jio TV, 9 p.m., 11.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

IN BRIEF

Curry shows the way as Warriors take series lead

SAN FRANCISCO

Stephen Curry scored 32 points as Golden State Warriors staged a stunning fightback to defeat Dallas Mavericks 126-117 on Friday and seize control of their NBA Western Conference finals series. A pulsating clash in San Francisco saw the Warriors recover from a 19-point deficit and go 2-0 up in the best-of-seven series. AFP

De Bruyne, Foden get Premier League awards

LONDON

Manchester City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne was named the Premier League's Player of the Season for the 2021-22 campaign, the league said on Saturday. The Belgian's teammate Phil Foden was named Young Player of the Season for the second year in a row. REUTERS

Priya Mohan wins 400m in Geneva meet

GENEVA

Priya H. Mohan, the under-20 Worlds relay bronze medallist, won the 400m gold in 52.93s at the CSI League National inter-club athletics meet here on Saturday. National record-holder Avinash Sable finished fourth in the men's 3000m steeple chase with 8:25.82s at the USA Distance Classic at Walnut, California.

Mbappe to stay at PSG: *L'Equipe*

PARIS

Kylian Mbappe has decided to extend his stay at Paris St. Germain, French sport daily *L'Equipe* reported on Saturday. The France forward, whose current contract expires on June 30, had been widely tipped to join Real Madrid. REUTERS

Leclerc takes pole

SPANISH GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MONTMELO

Ferrari's World championship leader Charles Leclerc grabbed pole for the Spanish Grand Prix ahead of Max Verstappen in qualifying at a sweltering Montmelo circuit on Saturday.

Local man Carlos Sainz cheered the huge home support to start Sunday's race on the second row in the other Ferrari where he will be joined by the Mercedes of George Russell.

Sergio Perez in the second Red Bull is on the third row with Lewis Hamilton for company in the other Mercedes.

Leclerc leads Verstappen by 19 points going into this sixth race of the season.

Indian men clinch gold

Finish on top in compound team event; silver for Bhardwaj

ARCHERY

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian men's team picked up its second gold medal this year, while the mixed team collected the bronze and Mohan Bhardwaj secured his maiden World Cup medal – a silver – in the compound section of the Archery World Cup Stage-2 in Gwangju, Korea, on Saturday.

In a repeat of the World Cup Stage-1 final in Antalya in April, the fourth-ranked Indian men's team of Abhishek Verma, Aman Saini and Rajat Chauhan defeated sixth-placed France (Adrien Gontier, Jean Philippe Boulch and Quentin Baraer) 232-230.

India, which trailed by a point after two ends, emerged the better side in the last two ends to claim the gold.

Abhishek combined with Avneet Kaur to beat Turkey's Ayse Bera Suzer and Emircan Haney 156-155 to take the mixed team bronze. The Indians scored a perfect 40 to overtake the Turks in the last end. Bhardwaj rallied to shoot a perfect 30 in the final end and shock reigning World champion Nico Wiener of Austria 143-141 in the semifinals.

However, he lost to the Netherlands' former World champion Mike Schloesser 149-141 in the final. Schloesser recorded perfect 30s in the last four ends.

Earlier, the Indian women had bagged bronze medals in compound and recurve team events for India to finish with five medals in the second stage.

Maiden medal: Mohan Bhardwaj in action in the men's compound final. • GETTY IMAGES

An intriguing final day in England

City on verge of retaining title; Liverpool chasing quadruple

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Manchester City has the destiny of the Premier League title in its hands heading into Sunday's final day showdown, with the defending champion holding a slender one-point lead over quadruple-chasing Liverpool.

Pep Guardiola's men will claim a fourth English title in five years of a dominant era for City with victory over Aston Villa. Anything other than a City win will allow Liverpool to take the title with victory at home to Wolves.

The Reds face Real in next weekend's battle to be crowned champion of Europe in Paris as it remains in contention for an unprecedented haul of four major trophies in the one season. Jurgen Klopp's men have already lifted the League Cup and FA Cup.

Tottenham Spurs, which is fourth behind Chelsea, just need a draw away to already-relegated Norwich to secure a return to the Champions League.

Premier League fixtures (8.30 p.m. IST): Arsenal v Everton, Brentford v Leeds, Brighton v West Ham, Burnley v Newcastle, Chelsea v Watford, Crystal Palace v Manchester United, Leicester v Southampton,Liverpool v Wolves, Manchester City v Aston Villa, Norwich v Tottenham.

The results: La Liga: Real Madrid 0 drew with Real Betis 0; Rayo Vallecano 2 (Garcia Rivera 18, Guardiola Navarro 61-pen) lost to Levante 4 (Melero Manzanares 26, 45+1, Roger 44, Coke 76).

Serie A: Torino 0 lost to Roma 3 (Abraham 33, 42-pen, Pellegrini 78-pen).

Bragging rights: Sunday would decide whether Klopp or Guardiola walks away with league honours. • GETTY IMAGES

Sania-Hradecka duo finishes runner-up

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Sania Mirza and Lucie Hradecka were beaten 5-7, 7-5, 10-6 by Nicole Melchar-Martinez and Daria Saville in the final of the €203,024 WTA tennis tournament in Strasbourg, France, on Saturday.

The top seeded Indo-Czech team settled for 180 WTA points and €5,400.

In the $25,000 ITF men's event in Croatia, 20-year-old Dev Javia won his maiden doubles title in the professional circuit with Lukas Pokorny of Slovakia.

The results:

€203,024 WTA, Strasbourg, France: Doubles (final): Nicole Melichar-Martinez (sUSA) & Daria Saville (Aus) bt Lucie Hradecka (Cze) & Sania Mirza 5-7, 7-5, [10-6].

$60,000 ITF women, Pelham, USA: Doubles (semifinals): Reese Brantmeier & Elvina Kalieva (US) bt Maria Kononova (Rus) & Sharmada Balu 6-4, 6-4.

$25,000 ITF women, Montemor-O-Novo, Portugal: Doubles (semifinals): Alana Parnaby (Aus) & Prarthana Thombare bt Julie Belgraver (Fra) & Riya Bhatia 6-4, 6-4.

Francisca Jorge & Matilde Jorge (Por) w/o Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) & Sowjanya Bavisetti.

$25,000 ITF men, Osijek, Croatia: Doubles (final): Lukas Pokorny (Svk) & Dev Javia bt Luka Mikrut & Mili Poljicak (Cro) 7-6(3), 3-6, [10-8];

Semifinals: Lukas & Dev bt Simon Carr (Irl) & Matyas Fuele (Hun) 6-2, 6-3.

Chandigarh in last eight

HOCKEY

SPORTS BUREAU

Chandigarh entered the quarterfinals with a 10-2 win over Bengal in a Group-B match of the 12th Hockey India National junior men's championship in Kovilpatti on Saturday. The other teams that have entered the last eight are Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

Important results: Group-A: U.P. 11 bt Telangana 0.
B: Chandigarh 10 bt Bengal 2 .
C: Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu 6 bt Le Puducherry 1.
D: Haryana 9 (Shubham 3, Rajat, Deepak, Vikas 2, Ankit, Sachin) bt Manipur 0.
H: Karnataka 22 (G. Vishwas 7, C.J. Rahul 4, A. A. Desh Poovaiah 2, Majji Ganesh 2, V. Vikas 2, B. R. Bipin, H.A. Vachan, Gowtham, Varun Kumar, R. Vrushab) bt Gujarat 1 (Vikas Yadav).

Sindhu loses in semifinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK

P.V. Sindhu exited the Thailand Open losing 17-21, 16-21 to Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei in the semifinals here on Saturday.

Sindhu, seeded sixth, enjoyed a 6-4 head-to-head record coming into the match but was not her usual self against the Chinese, who dished out aggressive badminton to come up trumps.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad had lost to Chen the last time they faced off at the 2019 BWF World Tour Finals.

Two golds for Bhagat; Dhillon bags one

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Paralympic champion Pramod Bhagat secured two golds to lead the Indian badminton team's medal rush at the Bahrain Para Badminton International in Manama on Saturday.

Bhagat received a walkover from Daniel Bethell of England in the men's singles SL3 final. He then paired up with Manisha Ramdass to beat Thailand's Siripong Teamarrom and Saensupa Nipada 21-14, 21-11 in the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 class final.

Tarun Dhillon also secured a gold after beating Korea's Shin Kyung Hwan 21-9, 21-9 in the men's singles SL4 final. In women's singles, Mandeep Kaur (SL3) lost 5-21, 17-21 to Halime Yildiz to sign off with a silver medal. In women's events, Ramdass (SU5) and Mandeep Kaur (SL3) reached the final of women's doubles SL3-SU5 class.

Deepti ready for leadership role

Have enjoyed captaincy, says allrounder

T20 CHALLENGE

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

How important Deepti Sharma is for Indian cricket was underlined a few days ago when she was announced as Velocity's captain for the T20 Challenge, starting at Pune on Monday.

While the other skippers, Harmanpreet Kaur (Supernovas) and Smriti Mandhana (Trailblazers), have been doing the role from the beginning, this is the first time Deepti has been made the captain. She has replaced Mithali Raj, who had led Velocity till the last edition.

"It feels nice that I have got this opportunity," the 24-year-old all-rounder said on Saturday. "When you captain, your responsibility increases... you want to do well and take your team forward. I have enjoyed captaincy. I have captained at the domestic level."

She said the annual tournament was a good initiative by the BCCI. "It would be even better next year when there could be six teams," she said. "We have a lot of talent in India and it would be better for them if they get more matches."

She said the T20 Challenge was a great opportunity for them. "We have foreign players for this tournament and the (uncapped) domestic players," she said. "The youngsters get to share the experience with the seniors."

Deepti is excited that several promising cricketers have been picked for the six-day event. "I was watching Kiran Navgire at the nets for the first time and saw that she was a power-hitter," she said. "I also found leg-spinner Maya Sonawane very good."

Let's do it! Skipper Deepti will be the centre of attention in the Velocity camp. • TWITTER@DEEPTI_SHARMA06

Colaco 'tricks as ATK MB thrashes Kings

Stewart gives Maziya full points against Gokulam Kerala

AFC CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Liston Colaco stole the show with a timely hat-trick to propel ATK Mohun Bagan to an emphatic 4-0 win against the Bangladesh league champion, Bashundhara Kings, in a second round Group D match of the AFC Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Saturday.

David Williams, who came in as a second half substitute, added one to the treble of Colaco to help the home favourite complete a fantastic comeback.

In the other Group D match, Maldives' Maziya S&RC prevailed over I-League champion Gokulam Kerala 1-0 with Cornelius Stewart netting the winner in the 50th minute.

Needing a win to keep its tournament hopes alive, ATK Mohun Bagan presented a completely reformed performance to outdo Bashundhara.

The embarrassing 2-4 loss against Gokulam Kerala in the previous round, seemed to spur the former Indian Super League runner-up into action.

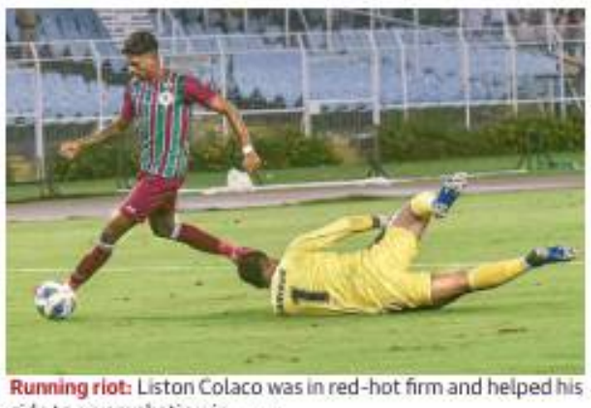
ATKMB appeared with a purpose and stepped up the attack mode right from the start. The match was held up for 51 minutes after 11 minutes of initial action as a severe seasonal storm accompanied by heavy showers hit the venue.

The ATKMB endured a couple of Bangladesh onslaughts after the restart but found the rhythm soon enough to score the opening goal in the 25th minute. Colaco made the most of a mistake by the Bashundhara defender Biswanath Ghosh, who failed to clear a through pass from Mohun Bagan midfielder Carl McHugh, to open the scoring process.

Colaco doubled the lead in the 33rd minute, latching on to a defence-splitting pass from the Finnish international Joni Kauko.

He completed the first hat-trick of his career after the interval, off a Manvir Singh assist in the 53rd minute. David Williams, who replaced Kauko in the 70th minute, added the fourth goal in the 77th minute.

The results: ATK Mohun Bagan 4 (Colaco 25, 33 & 53, Williams 77) bt Bashundhara Kings 0; Maziya S&RC 1 (Stewart 50) bt Gokulam Kerala FC 0.



Running riot: Liston Colaco was in red-hot firm and helped his side to an emphatic win. • PTI

Carlsen. • FILE PHOTO

Carlsen leads star cast

CHESS OLYMPIAD

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

As widely anticipated, World champion Magnus Carlsen will lead the star cast of the world's elite players when the Chess Olympiad takes place at Mahabalipuram, near Chennai, from July 28.

Carlsen, who has regularly spearheaded Norway in the world's premier team event, Shakhariyar Mamedyarov, Teimour Radjabov (Azerbaijan), Anish Giri, Jorden van Foreest (Netherlands), Pavel Uljanov (Ukraine) and Gabriel Sargissian (Armenia) are among the confirmed names for the mega team competition.

With a week to go for the entries to close, about 158 nations in the Open section and 130 in the women's category have communicated with the Organising Committee for the login details to register their teams.

Entries received after May 27 and before June 27 attract a late-fee charge of €100 per person.

MNK Rao BC and Mounts BC triumph

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

MNK Rao BC and Mounts BC emerged the boys' and girls' basketball champions at the State Mini Olympic Games here on Saturday.

Select results (winners all): Athletics: Boys: 200m: Monish Chandrashekar (23.6s); **Long jump:** N. Manvith (5.42m); **Discus throw:** G. Anurag (41.67m); **4x100m relay:** Dharwad (48.1s); **Girls: 200m:** Swara Santosh Shinde (26.6s); **Long jump:** B.R. Apeksha (4.93m); **4x100m relay:** Bangalore (54.7s). **Basketball: Boys:** MNK Rao BC 64 (Vijendra 22, Akshath 22) bt HBR BC 46 (Samveg 19); **Girls:** Mounts BC 56 (Nidhi 30, Tharushee 10) bt MCHS 33 (Adhithi 19).

Easy for Blitz FC

Blitz FC blanked Postal Dept FC 3-0 in the BDFA A-division league championship, here on Saturday.

The results: South United FC 2 (Leynold Carlo Mark 2, G. Manigandan 45) bt Income Tax FC 1 (V. Premkumar 10); Blitz FC 3 (Chetan 8, Ajay 19, B.U. Mithun 65) bt Postal Dept FC 0; RWF FC 0 drew with HAL FC 0.

Jonathan nets winner

Jonathan's 30th minute winner earned BCFC a narrow 1-0 win over Tornadoes FC and carried the side into the semifinals of the BDFA C-division league championship, here on Saturday.

Zalatoris moves ahead of the field

Pereira on his heels; Woods fights to stay the weekend

PGA C'SHIP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TULSA (USA)

American Will Zalatoris fired a bogey-free five-under 65 to seize a one-stroke lead after Friday's second round of the PGA Championship while Tiger Woods battled his way into the weekend.

After gusting winds vanished in the afternoon, Zalatoris reeled off three back-nine birdies in a row and sank a seven-foot birdie putt on the 17th to finish 36 holes on nine-under 131.

One stroke behind is Chile's Mito Pereira, who fired a 64.

Woods, on a comeback after severe leg injuries in a car crash 15 months ago, overcame a double bogey on the par-3 11th with birdies on the 13th and 16th to shoot 69 and make the weekend on three-over 143.

"I had to grind and go to work and I did and I made it," Woods said.

The most beautiful shot-making came from two-time Masters winner Bubba Watson, who matched the course record with a seven-under 63 that included nine birdies, his most in any Major round.

Watson was fourth on 135, one stroke behind 2017 PGA winner Justin Thomas, who played in the most brutal of winds, and one stroke ahead of Rory McIlroy, the 18-hole leader who battled to a 71 to share fifth on 136 with American Davis Riley and Mexico's Abraham Ancer.

Jordan Spieth also shot 69 and stood on 141 after 36 holes, 10 off the pace.

Where there's a will...: Zalatoris made the most of conditions favouring him to take a one-stroke lead. • AFP

Top scores: 131: Will Zalatoris (USA) 66, 65; **132:** Mito Pereira (Chi) 68, 64; **134:** Justin Thomas (USA) 67, 67; **135:** Bubba Watson (USA) 72, 63; **136:** Davis Riley (USA) 68, 68, Abraham Ancer (Mex) 67, 69, Rory McIlroy (NIR) 65, 71; **137:** Matthew Fitzpatrick (Eng) 68, 69, Stewart Cink (USA) 69, 68.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD: BUILDING ASSAM
CHANDMARI: GUWAHATI-3

No. CS/T/TB-1/08/2022/01

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode-I of contract (Single stage two-part bidding system) for the works detailed in the table below, from contractors having experience in similar nature of works.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e., www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sl No.	Name of work	Approx. Bid Value (in Rs.)	Bid security/EMD	Cost of RFP Document	Completion period	Defect Liability period
1	Construction of Proposed District Sports Stadium Complex At Bathouphuri, Mushalpur in the District of Baksa (BTR), Assam under NIDA	45,07,67,344.00	Rs. 90,15,347.00 (for General category) OR Rs. 45,07,673.00 (for Reserved category)	Rs. 20,000.00	24 (twenty four) months	01 (one) year

Note:- 1. NIT value ma be changed during uploading of tender in the website, which may be seen in Detailed NIT of the bid document.
2. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in
3. The Work Order will be issued afer receipt of Administrative Approval from concerned authority.

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